

8



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CIVIL WAR™

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CIVIL WAR FRONT LINE #008

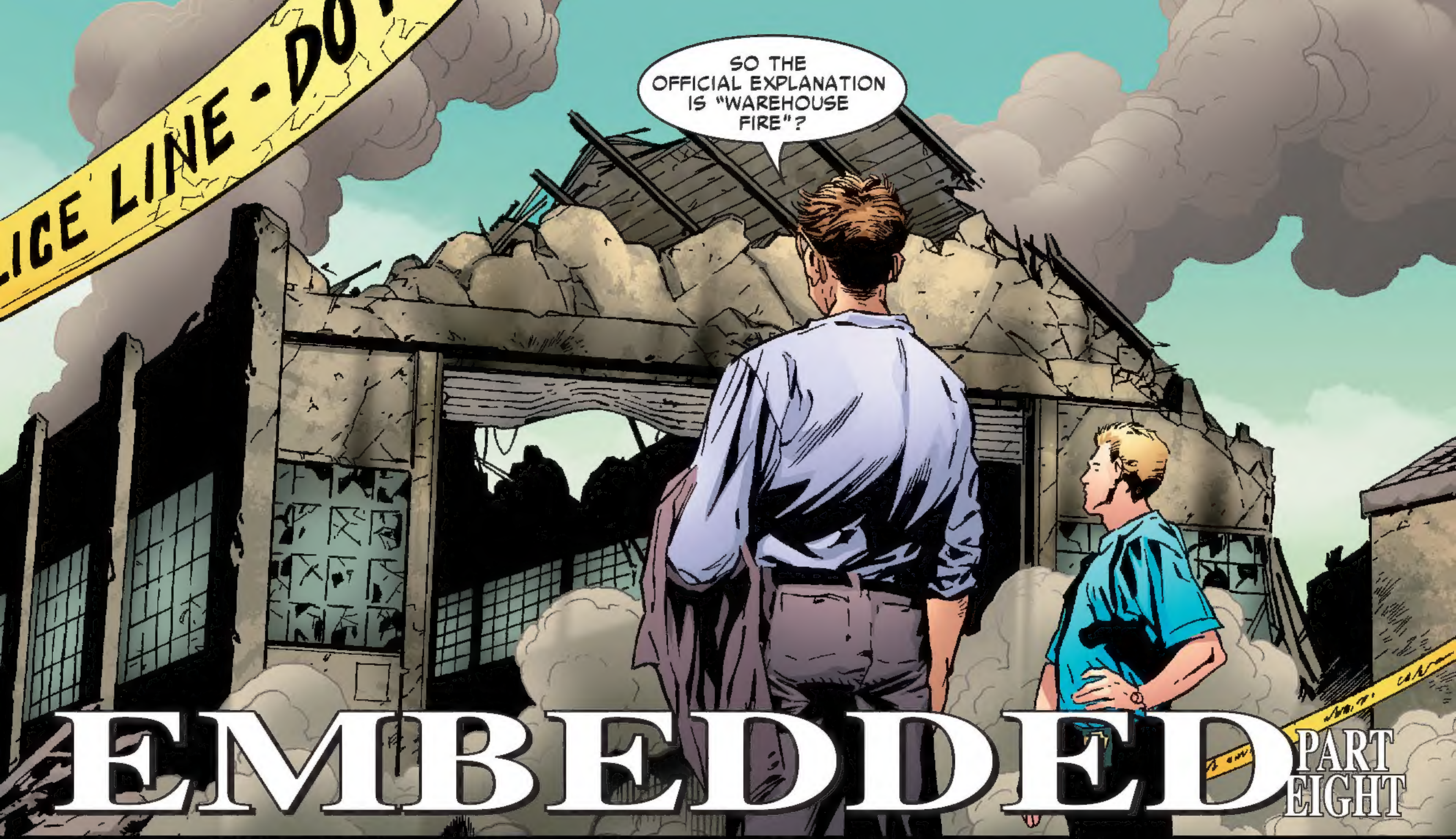
70 YEARS OF MARVEL COMICS

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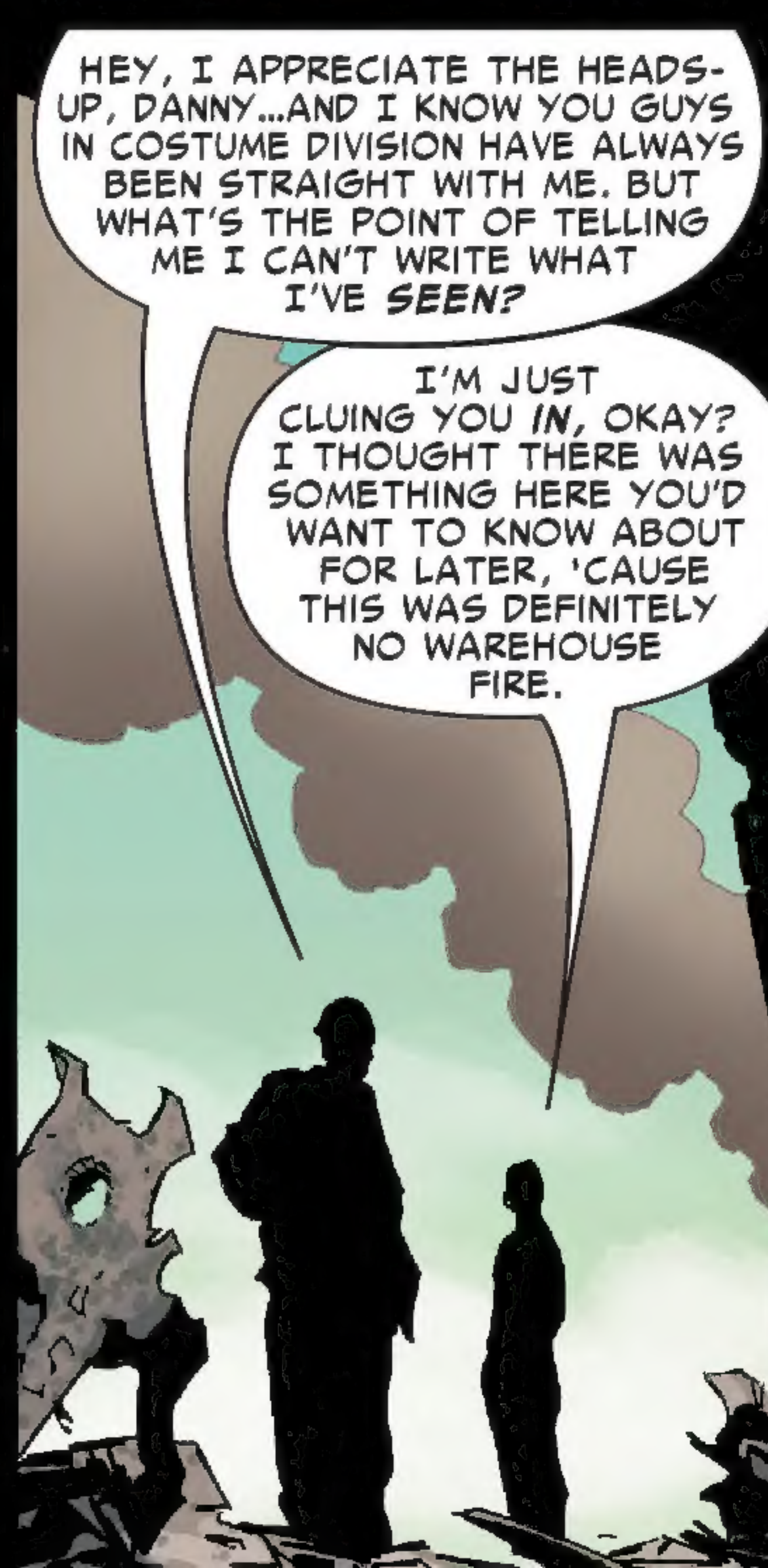
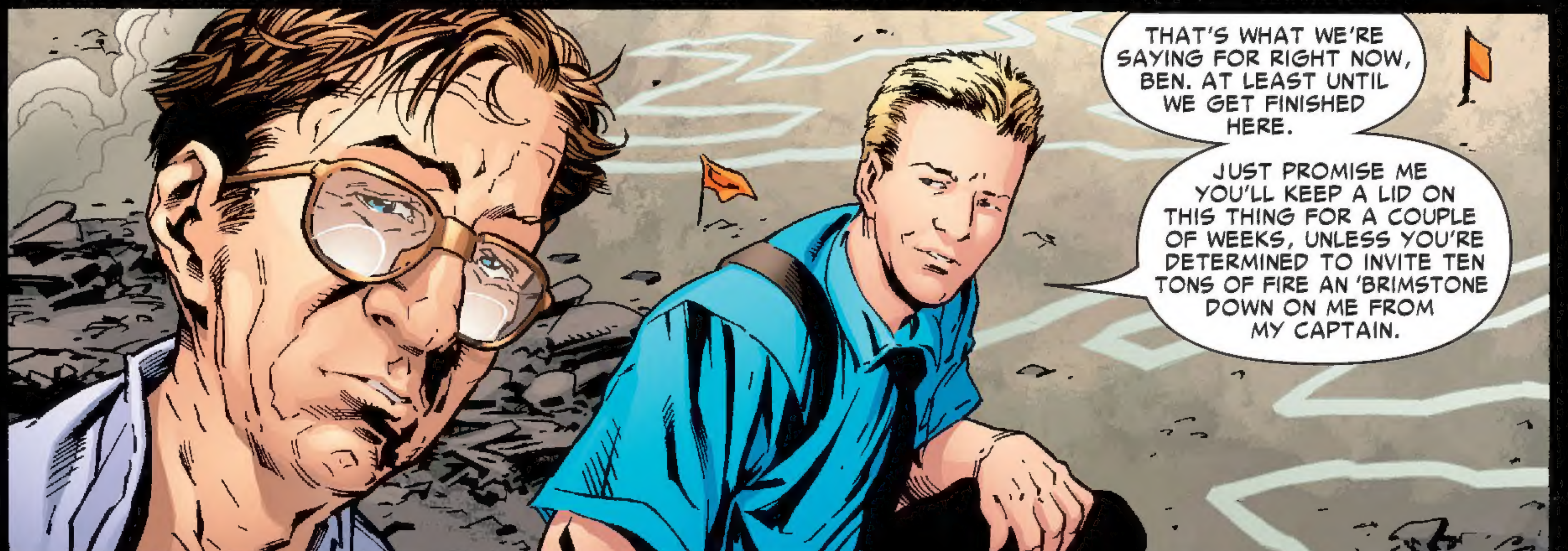
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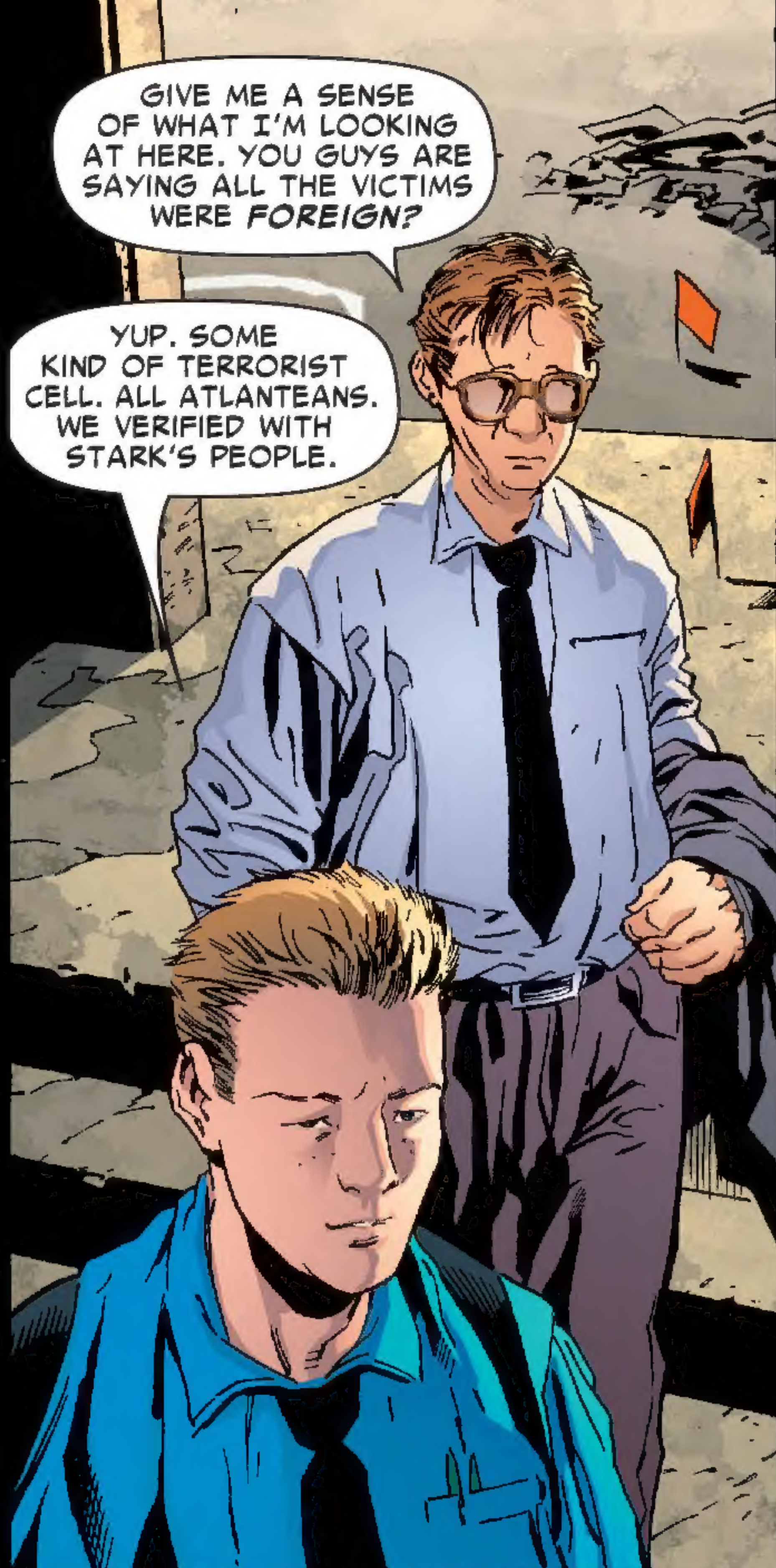
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70 YEARS
MARVEL
COMICS



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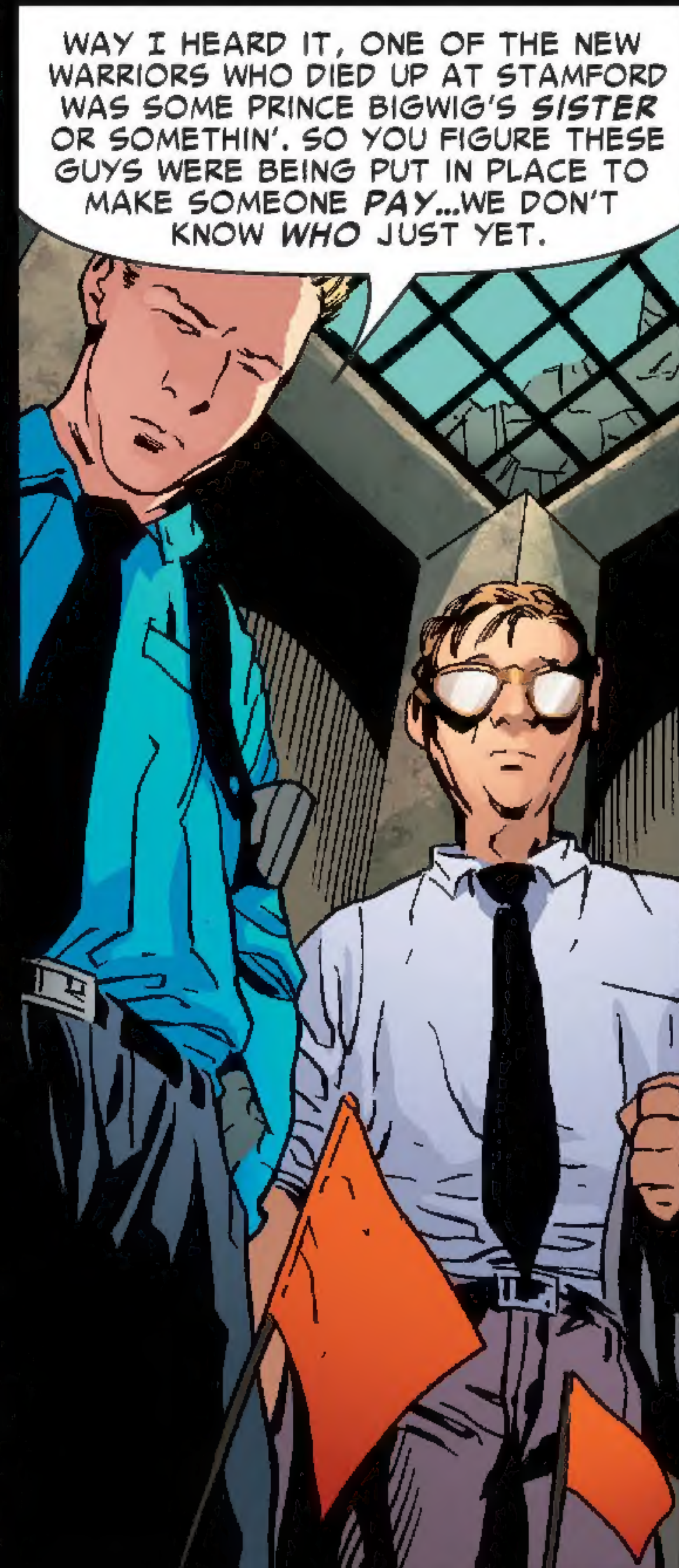
GIVE ME A SENSE OF WHAT I'M LOOKING AT HERE. YOU GUYS ARE SAYING ALL THE VICTIMS WERE *FOREIGN*?

YUP. SOME KIND OF TERRORIST CELL. ALL ATLANTEANS. WE VERIFIED WITH STARK'S PEOPLE.

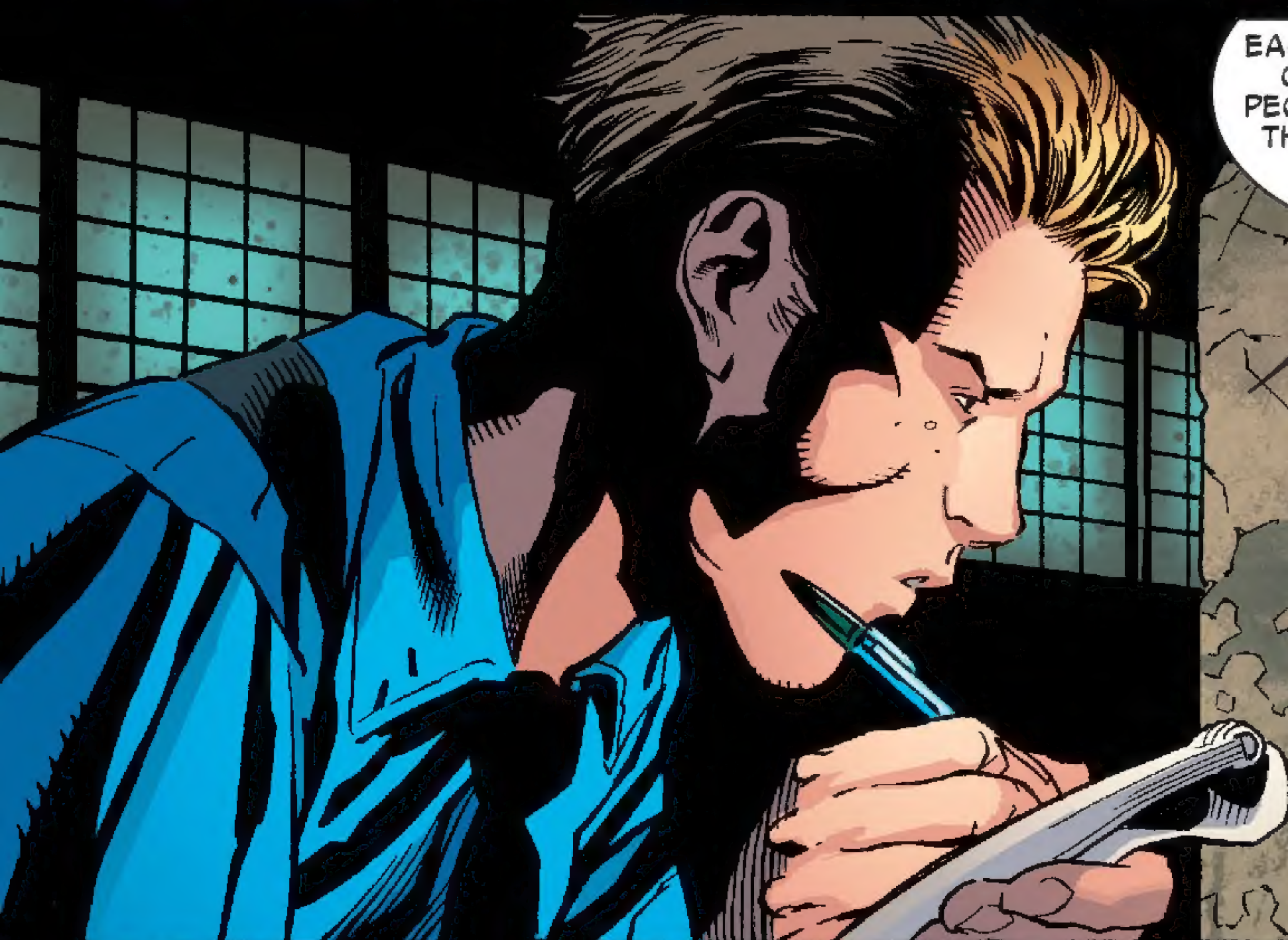


NOW IT DOESN'T TAKE A DETECTIVE TO GUESS THEIR *INTENT*, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT, BEN. SOME TRUTHS ARE SELF-EVIDENT.

I WORKED NARCOTICS FOR TWO YEARS BEFORE COSTUME DIVISION, AN' ANYONE KNOWS THAT IF YOU FIND A DEAD DEALER THEN THERE'S A *LIVE* ONE NEARBY WITH TWICE AS MANY DRUGS AN' A *SMILE* ON HIS FACE.



WAY I HEARD IT, ONE OF THE NEW WARRIORS WHO DIED UP AT STAMFORD WAS SOME PRINCE BIGWIG'S *SISTER* OR SOMETHIN'. SO YOU FIGURE THESE GUYS WERE BEING PUT IN PLACE TO MAKE SOMEONE PAY...WE DON'T KNOW WHO JUST YET.



EACH ORANGE FLAG REPRESENTS SOME KIND OF UNKNOWN WEAPON OR DEVICE. THESE PEOPLE BROUGHT A LOT OF HARDWARE WITH THEM. I TALKED TO ONE OF THE WEAPONS ANALYSIS GUYS HALF AN HOUR AGO, AN' HE SAYS THEY'RE ATLANTEAN ALL THE WAY--



WHO'D HAVE THE DESIRE AND THE *RESOURCES* FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS BIG?



I HEARD A RUMOR.



RUMOR?
WHAT RUMOR?

I'VE SAID TOO MUCH.

NO WAY!
I CALL THE UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMOR GAME.

OH, YEAH?
WHAT ARE WE PLAYING FOR?



DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU GOT.
SPILL IT.

I TALKED TO VANESSA OUT OF DISPATCH. SHE HEARD A LOT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. RADIO TRAFFIC COMING THROUGH OUR SYSTEM THAT DAY.

AND?

THIS WAS DONE BY A FRIEND OF YOURS.



DON'T YOU DO THIS TO ME,
DANNY GRANVILLE--

OKAY, LOOK...
FORENSICS RECOVERED ONE UNEXPLODED DEVICE OF A TYPE AND CHEMICAL CONSTITUENCY THAT CONNECTS IT TO SOMEONE WE KNOW.

WHO?



RHYMES WITH "GREEN GOBLIN."
WHAT DO I WIN?



OSBORN AGAIN? BUT WHY WOULD HE GO AFTER ATLANTEANS? HOW DID HE GET THE INTELLIGENCE ON THEM, FOR ONE THING--?

I GOT ONE MORE ITEM FOR YOU--A REAL KEEPER THIS TIME. BUT YOU GOTTA MAKE IT WORTH MY WHILE.



OKAY. ARE YOU STILL SINGLE?



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "YOU SET ME UP ON A BLIND DATE?"



JUST A FRIEND OF MINE. YOU'LL HAVE A GOOD TIME. HE'S A NICE GUY.

LOOK...JUST DO THIS ONE THING FOR ME, SALLY. I OWE YOU ONE, OKAY? HE'LL PICK YOU UP AT NINE.



FINE. BUT THIS HAD BETTER BE BRAD PITT'S SEXY EVIL TWIN, OR A VIRTUAL EQUIVALENT.

AND YOU OWE ME TWO!



HIYA, JERRY. HAVE YOU SEEN DOUG?



THAT'S FUNNY. YOU'RE A FUNNY BROAD.



HIYA, DOUGIE. HOW'S THE SEXIEST MUTANT ON THE PLANET?

I DON'T KNOW. HE WON'T RETURN MY CALLS.



I MEANT YOU, YOU STUD. DID I EVER ASK YOU TO LEAVE JERRY AND SWEEP ME AWAY TO TUSCANY?

ALL THE TIME. BUT I CAN'T LEAVE JERRY ALONE. HE SWEATS OUT HIS BUTT CRACK WHEN HE GETS SCARED AT NIGHT.



YOU SAY THE PRETTIEST THINGS. WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?

THAT'S STEVIE... GUY I TOLD YOU ABOUT. I CAN VOUCH FOR STEVIE. HE'S GOT SOMETHING YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN.



I GO OUT BY THE DOCKS, MISS FLOYD. JUST PICKIN' UP UNBROKEN COKE BOTTLES AN' STUFF. SO THE OTHER DAY, ME AN' MY BUD JIMMY, WE SEE THESE TWO GUYS THROWING A BODY INTO THE RIVER.

SMUK

AFTER THE RIPPLES DIE DOWN, I HEAR SOMEONE SAY A NAME. THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT YOU.



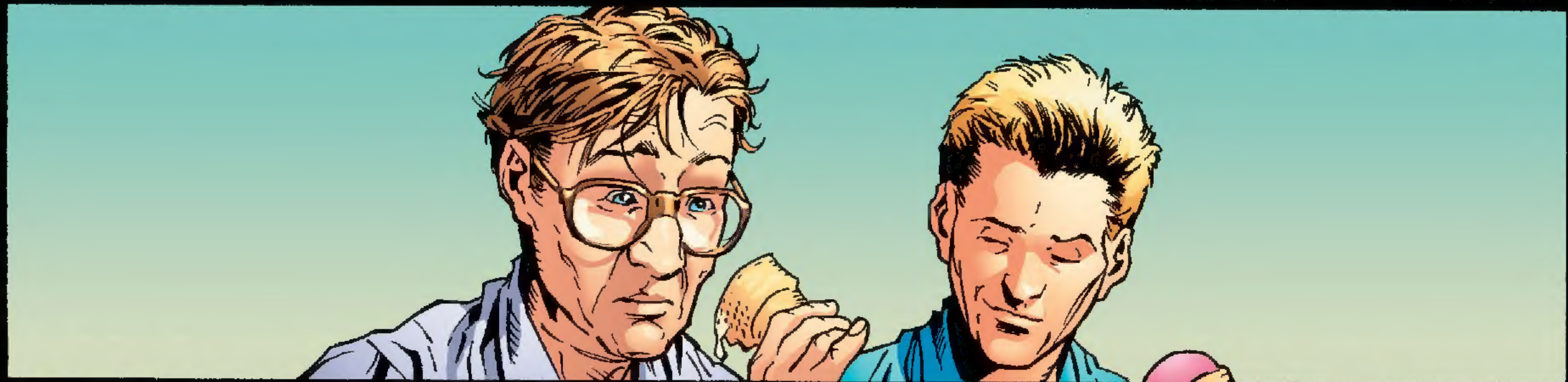
I ALWAYS HAD GOOD EARS--GOT 'EM FROM MY MOM. SHE COULD HEAR JOE DUGAN HIT A DOUBLE FROM OUTSIDE THE STADIUM IN HER DAY.

I LISTEN A BIT MORE AN' SOMEONE SAYS SOMETHIN' ABOUT MEETING YOU IN A MARKET. SOME UNDERCOVER STUFF, OR SOMETHIN'.

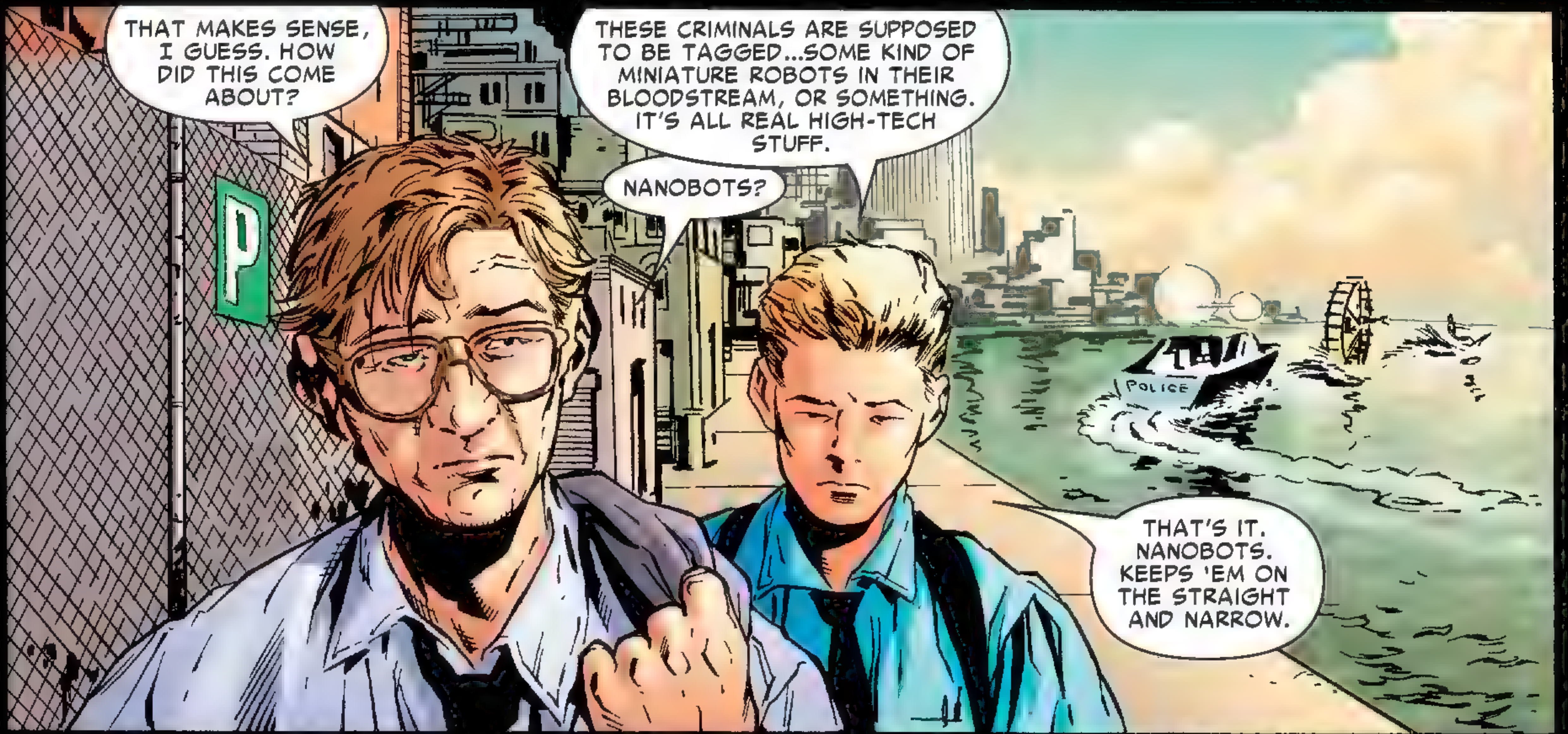


THEN I HEAR ANOTHER NAME: NICK FURY.









THAT MAKES SENSE, I GUESS. HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT?

THESE CRIMINALS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE TAGGED...SOME KIND OF MINIATURE ROBOTS IN THEIR BLOODSTREAM, OR SOMETHING. IT'S ALL REAL HIGH-TECH STUFF.

NANOBOOTS?

THAT'S IT. NANOBOOTS. KEEPS 'EM ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW.



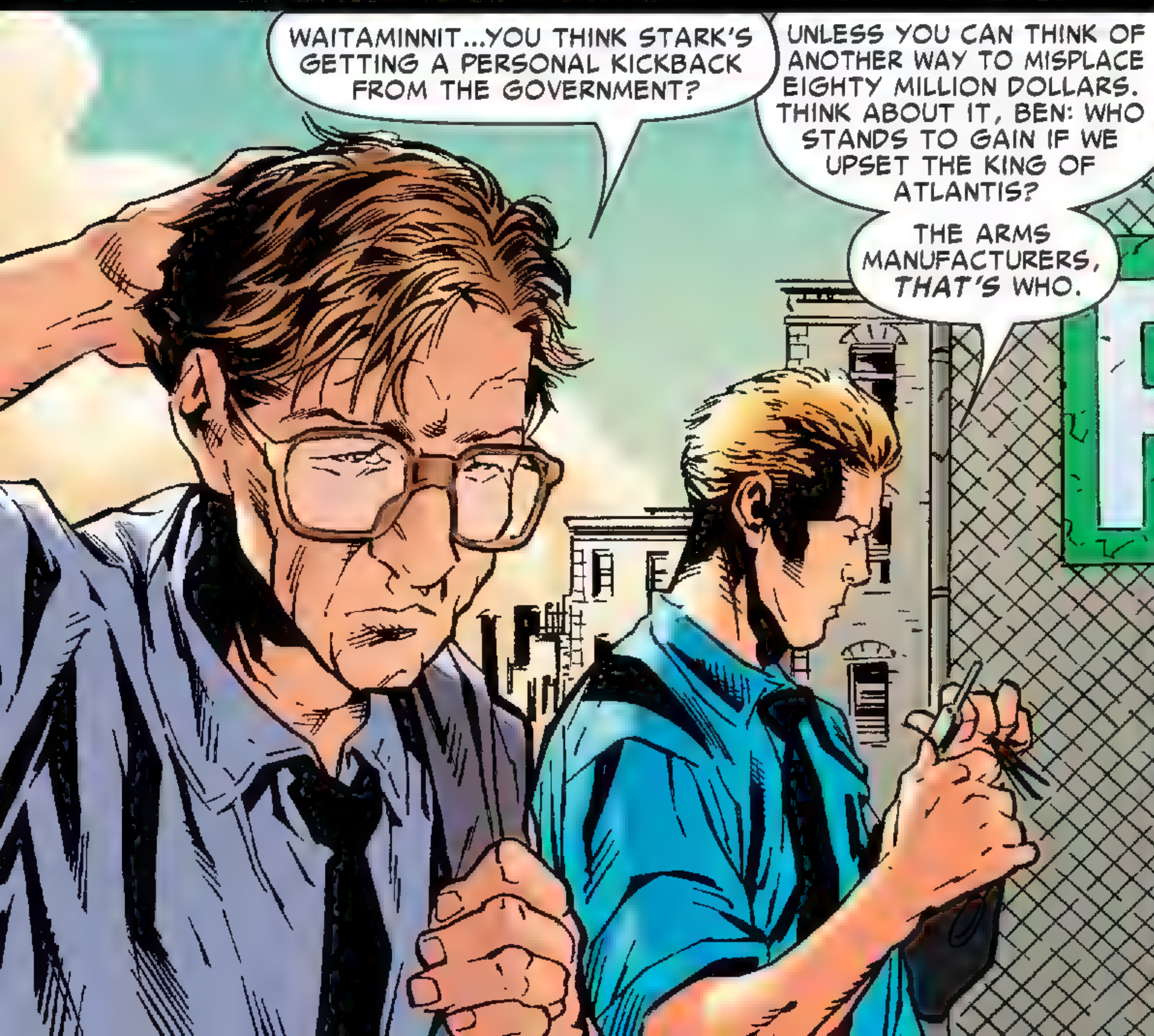
SO AS FAR AS THEY CAN TELL, SOMEONE IN THE ORGANIZATION MUST HAVE PROGRAMMED OSBORN'S BATCH DIFFERENTLY. THEY'RE FINDING EVIDENCE ON A DAILY BASIS--

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE STOCK MARKET?



I GOT TO THINKING: "WHO DEVELOPED THESE NANOBOOTS?" I MEAN, WHO GETS PAID TO DEVELOP THIS STUFF FOR THE MILITARY?

LO AND BEHOLD, IT'S OUR GUY TONY STARK. BUT THE MONEY'S NOT COMING INTO HIS CORPORATION. WHICH MEANS IT'S GOING SOMEWHERE ELSE.



WAITAMINNIT...YOU THINK STARK'S GETTING A PERSONAL KICKBACK FROM THE GOVERNMENT?

UNLESS YOU CAN THINK OF ANOTHER WAY TO MISPLACE EIGHTY MILLION DOLLARS. THINK ABOUT IT, BEN: WHO STANDS TO GAIN IF WE UPSET THE KING OF ATLANTIS?

THE ARMS MANUFACTURERS, THAT'S WHO.



WHAT IF THIS WHOLE WAR, THIS WHOLE TIME, WAS ALL ABOUT MONEY?



JUST SO YOU KNOW, I'VE GOT MACE.

RELAX. I WON'T HURT YOU.

NO YOU WON'T. BECAUSE I'VE GOT MACE.

I PROMISED DOUGIE I'D WATCH OUT FOR YOU. YOU KNOW DOUG, HE'D NEVER LET YOU COME HERE WITH JUST ANYONE.

I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, IF I HAVE TO--

MY HERO.

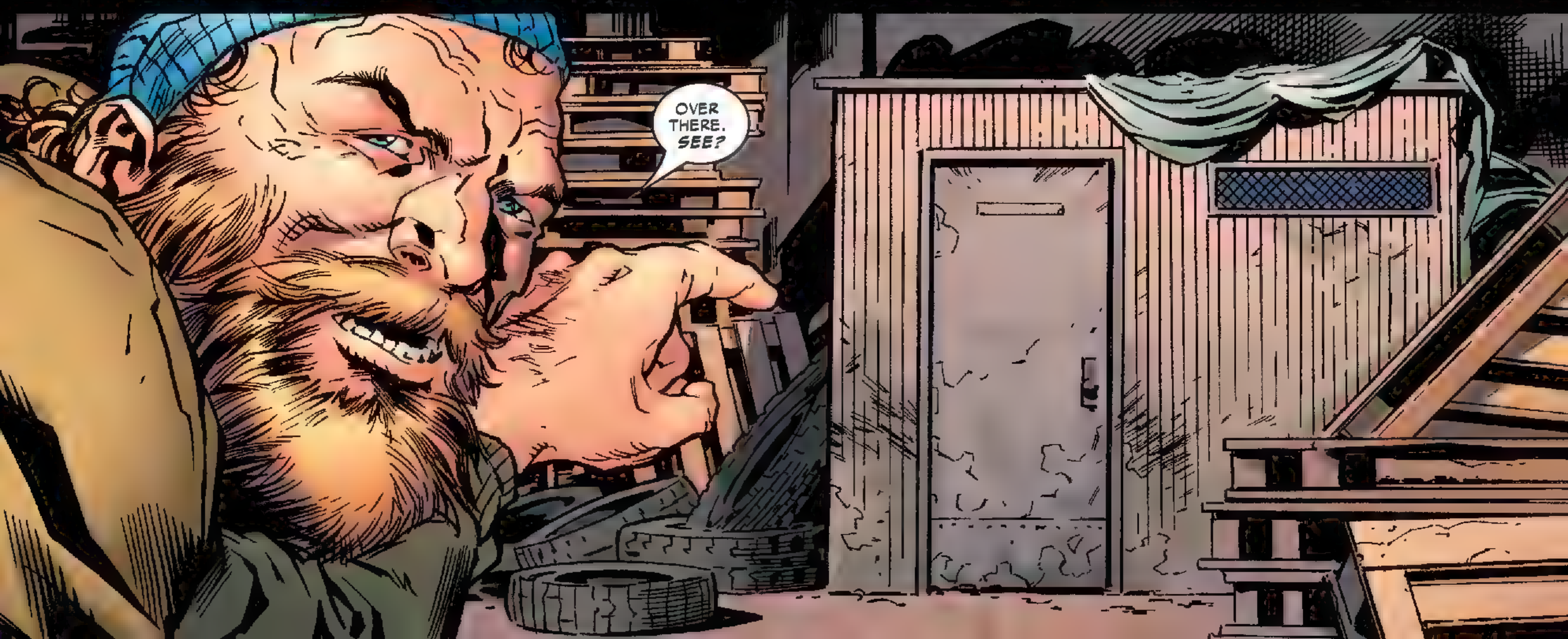
YOU'RE A PRETTY FAIR LADY, MISS FLOYD, IF YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING SO. I READ THAT MUTIE COLUMN YOU USED TO DO--

THEY'RE NOT "MUTIES," STEVIE.

YEAH, RIGHT... MY FAUX PAS. ANYWAYS...I LIKED IT. YOU WERE PRETTY FAIR.

SO WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THESE UNDERGROUND GUYS FOR ANYWAY? THEY OWE YOU MONEY?

NO. I OWE THEM. IS THIS IT?



OVER THERE. SEE?



THAT LITTLE SHED?

THAT'S WHERE THEY WENT IN. WE GOTTA BE CAREFUL.



BY THE WAY...YOU KNOW THEY DON'T SELL COKE IN GLASS BOTTLES ANYMORE, RIGHT?

HUH? NOTHING. IT'S JUST KINDA HARD TO BREAK A PLASTIC BOTTLE.



PLUS, JOE DUGAN: HE PLAYED WITH RUTH AND GEHRIG.

SO WHAT?



SO YOUR MOM'S OLD.

KNOK
KNOK



ANYONE HOME?

I'M JUST SAYING. AT LEAST YOU
COULD HAVE PICKED SOMEONE
FROM THE SIXTIES--



PROMISE
YOU WON'T
MACE ME.



TO BE CONTINUED...

SO HERE'S
WHAT I WANT
TO KNOW...

ROBBIE BALDWIN--UNREGISTERED
COMBATANT FORMERLY KNOWN AS
SPEEDBALL--TAKES A SLUG POINT
BLANK TO THE ABDOMEN BEFORE
HE CAN TESTIFY TO CONGRESS
ABOUT HIS INVOLVEMENT
IN THE STAMFORD
MASSACRE.

THE SHOOTER--
A GRIEVING FATHER
OF ONE OF THE
CHILDREN WHO DIED
IN THE STAMFORD
INCIDENT--IS TAKEN
INTO CUSTODY.

ON THE WAY TO
THE HOSPITAL, BALDWIN'S
AMBULANCE DEVELOPS
TWENTY-SEVEN MAJOR
ELECTRONIC MALFUNCTIONS
AND NOSEDIVES INTO
ANOTHER CAR.

THE
AMBULANCE
CONTAINS FOUR
PERSONS, TWO
OF WHOM ARE
KILLED UPON
IMPACT.

TWO OTHERS
ARE EJECTED
FROM THE VEHICLE,
APPARENTLY THROUGH
THIS MASSIVE HOLE
THAT IS SOMEHOW
BLOWN THROUGH
THE ROOF.

ONE OF THESE
PEOPLE POSSESSES
SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH.
EVEN SO, THE IMPACT
IS FORCEFUL ENOUGH TO
CATCH HER BY SURPRISE AND
PROVIDE LACERATIONS
TO HER NECK AND
LOWER LIP.

THE ACCUSED PART EIGHT

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JENKINS
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STEVE
LIEBER
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JUNE
CHUNG
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VC'S RANDY
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JOE
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BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER



THE SECOND
SURVIVOR IS THOUGHT
TO POSSESS NO SUCH
POWERS, BUT IS FOUND SIXTY
YARDS AWAY ON A GRASS
VERGE, COMPLETELY
UNHARMED.

UNLESS YOU
COUNT THE GAPING
WOUND IN HIS STOMACH
CAUSED BY A GUNSHOT
TWELVE MINUTES
EARLIER.

SO WHAT I
WANT TO KNOW,
MISS WALTERS,
IS WHAT THE HELL
HAPPENED OUT
THERE?





I DON'T KNOW.

I WISH I COULD BELIEVE THAT.

IF I DID, YOU'D BE THE FIRST TO HEAR ABOUT IT, DIRECTOR HILL.

REALLY?

SEE, WHAT I THINK, MISS WALTERS, IS THAT YOU KNOW A LOT MORE THAN YOU'RE WILLING TO SAY ABOUT THE STATE OF YOUR CLIENT.

YOU'RE ENTITLED TO YOUR OPINION.

SO ARE YOU, AS LONG AS THAT OPINION DOESN'T PUT YOU IN JEOPARDY OF BREAKING THE LAW.

THANKS FOR THE LEGAL ADVICE.

IT'S NOT ADVICE. IT'S A DIRECT THREAT. NOW WHAT HAPPENED?

"ROBBIE WAS IN A LOT OF PAIN. I REMEMBER HE WAS MOANING EVERY TIME WE WENT OVER A BUMP. HE WAS SLIPPING IN AND OUT OF CONSCIOUSNESS... KEPT CALLING FOR HIS MOM.

"THERE WAS SOME KIND OF ENERGY BUILDUP...BUT IT CAME FROM ALL AROUND.

"I DIDN'T SEE THE FLASH OF LIGHT COMING. MY RETINAS SHOULD BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND DIRECT EXPOSURE TO AN ATOMIC BLAST FROM TWO MILES AWAY.

"BUT WHATEVER THAT FLASH WAS, IT BLINDED ME IN AN INSTANT.

"I DIDN'T SEE ANY OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT.

"APPARENTLY, ONE OF THEM WAS ANOTHER CAR."

WHICH IS WHERE I HAVE TO SERIOUSLY QUESTION YOUR VERSION OF EVENTS, MISS WALTERS, BECAUSE I SERIOUSLY DOUBT AN IMPACT WITH A CAR WOULD SO MUCH AS CAUSE A DENT IN YOUR FINGERNAIL, LET ALONE YOUR PRETTY FACE--

I WAS *BLINDED*. AND I THINK SOMETHING SIPHONED MY POWERS. OTHERWISE, I WOULDN'T HAVE CUT MY LIP. I'LL RECOVER, BUT--

WAS IT BALDWIN?

I DON'T KNOW!



"MISS WALTERS, WE HAVE ANOTHER SEVEN UNIFORMED OFFICERS IN THE HOSPITAL SUFFERING FROM SEVERE ELECTRICAL BURNS.

"ONE OFFICER DESCRIBES BEING BLINDED BY A MASSIVE FLASH OF LIGHT COMING FROM ABOVE THE AMBULANCE."

SO TELL ME: WHO TRIED TO BREAK BALDWIN OUT OF JAIL? WAS THIS PREMEDITATED, OR JUST A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY?

WHAT? ARE YOU SERIOUSLY TRYING TO SAY YOU'RE GOING TO TRY HOLDING ME HERE ON THAT?

I KNOW YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO WALK OUT OF HERE IN A STRAIGHT LINE, MISS WALTERS, AT ANY MOMENT YOU CHOOSE. BUT I HAVE ANOTHER THREE DAYS OF YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION SINCE THIS REGARDS AN UNREGISTERED COMBATANT.

SO GO AHEAD. GIVE ME A REASON TO HOLD YOU AS AN ACCESSORY TO THE TWO EXTRA COUNTS OF INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER I'M ADDING TO MISTER BALDWIN'S CHARGES.





SHE'S LYING. SHE KNOWS SOMETHING.

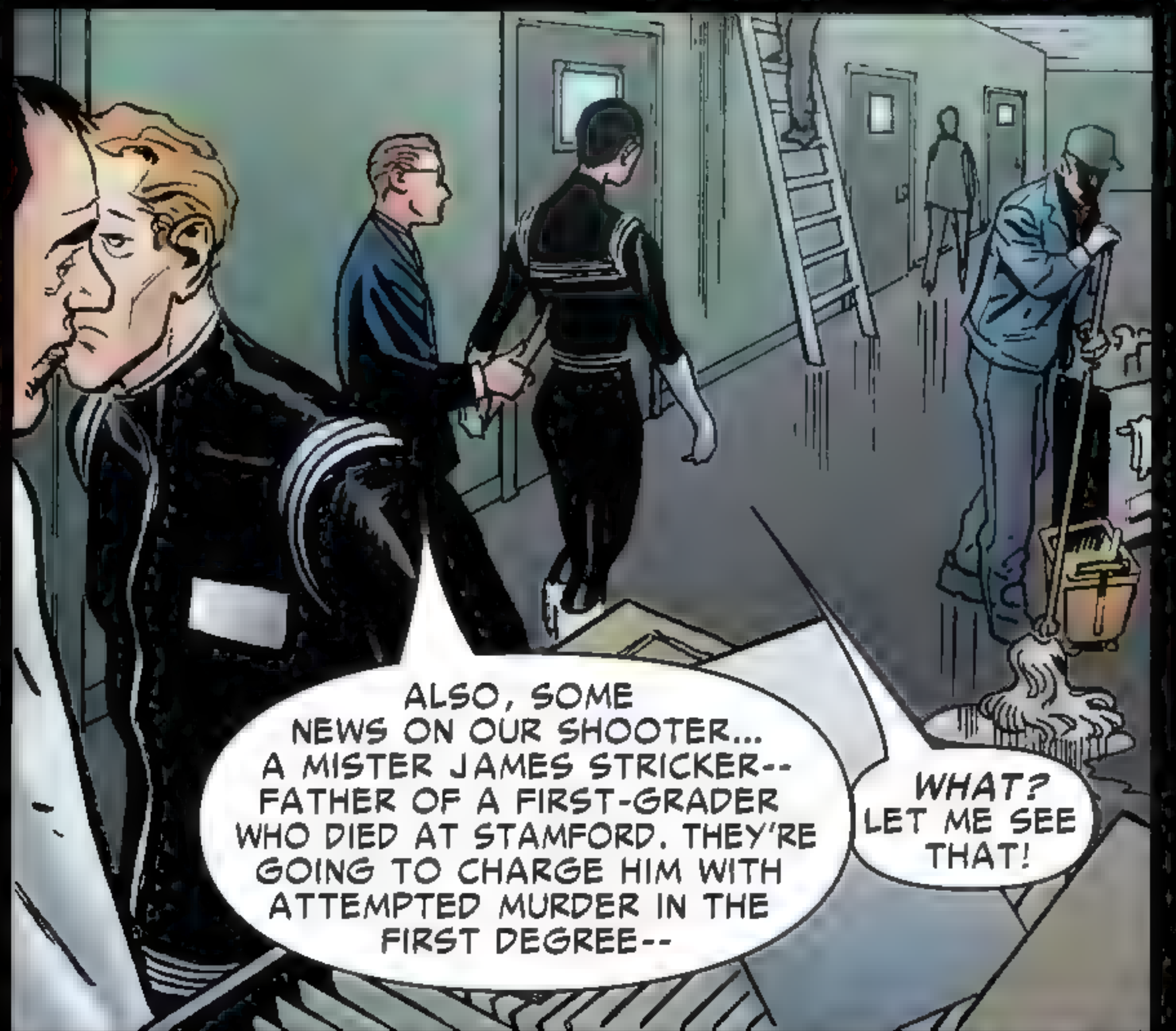
I'VE GOT MORE BAD NEWS, DIRECTOR HILL. JUST DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER--

I'M NOT MAKING ANY PROMISES. GO AHEAD.



OKAY, UH...WE'VE RECEIVED WORD THERE'S GOING TO BE A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY INTO BALDWIN'S SHOOTING. THEY WANT TO KNOW IF WE CREATED AN INTENTIONAL SECURITY BREACH TO STOP HIM FROM TESTIFYING.

THAT'S CRAZY! WE ASKED HIM TO TESTIFY!



ALSO, SOME NEWS ON OUR SHOOTER... A MISTER JAMES STRICKER-- FATHER OF A FIRST-GRADER WHO DIED AT STAMFORD. THEY'RE GOING TO CHARGE HIM WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE--

WHAT? LET ME SEE THAT!



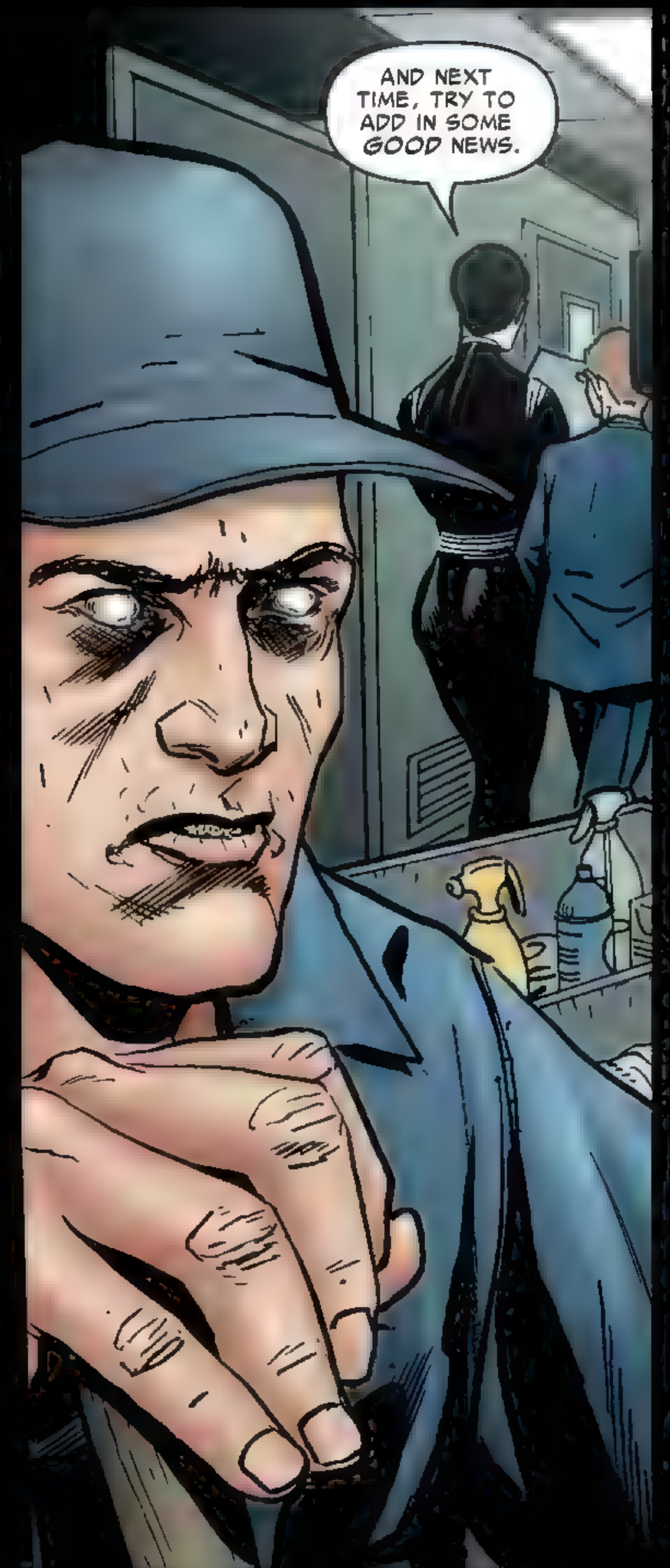
THEY'RE OUT OF THEIR MINDS. THIS IS JUST PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF THE ANTI-REGISTRATION CROWD.

IT, UH...IT GETS WORSE. BALDWIN'S OLD CELL MATE--GUY BY THE NAME OF HICKEY...HE JUST UP AND LEFT LAST NIGHT.

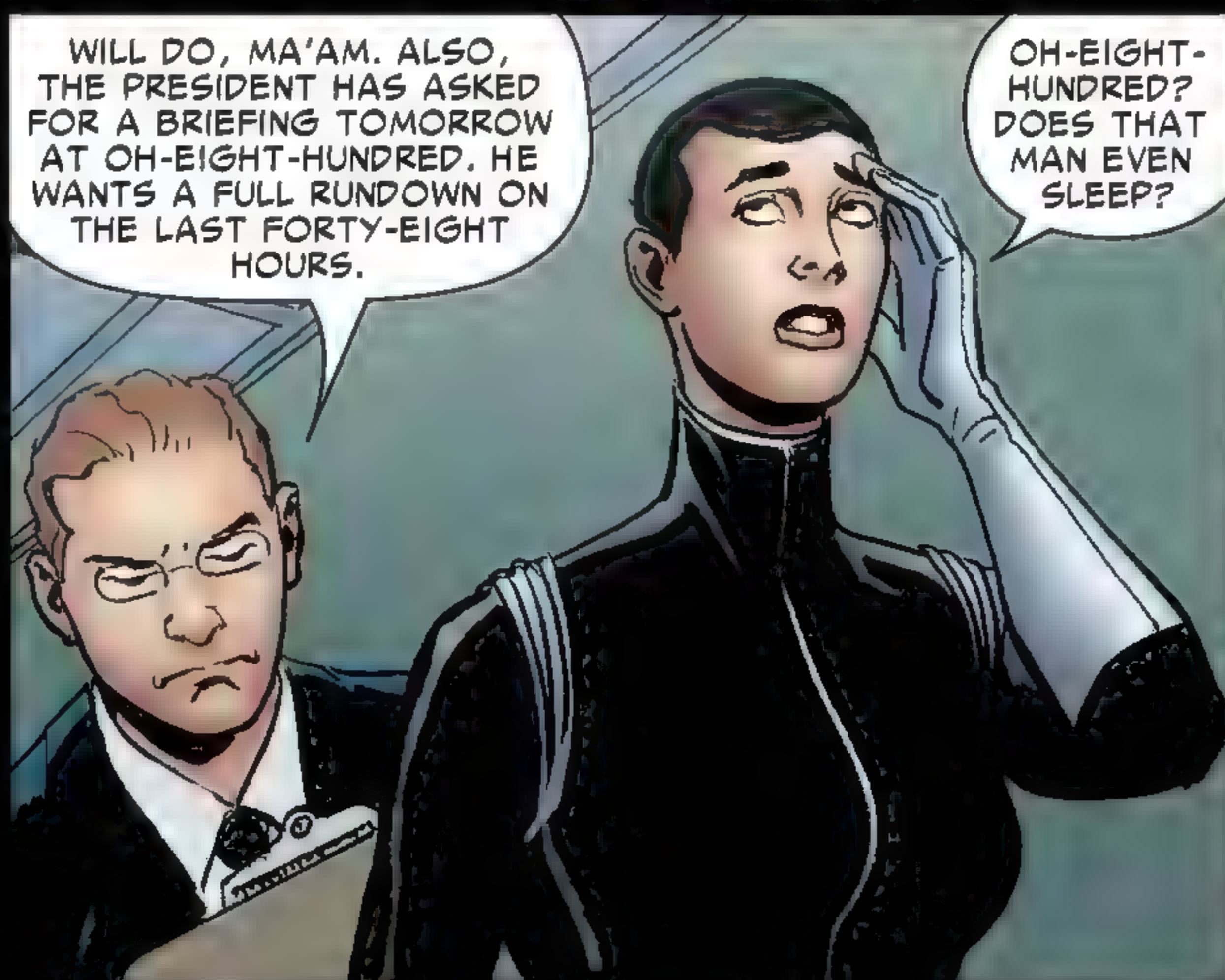
I MEAN JUST LIKE THAT...POOF! WE'RE CHECKING INTO THIS GUY'S BACKGROUND RIGHT NOW. IT COULD BE A COINCIDENCE.



I DON'T BELIEVE IN COINCIDENCES. I WANT THIS HICKEY GUY BACK BEHIND BARS, AN' I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HE KNOWS.



AND NEXT TIME, TRY TO ADD IN SOME GOOD NEWS.





I DOUBT HE'S ENJOYING IT MUCH RIGHT NOW. ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE?

WE'RE NOT SURE YET. BUT WE ARE WITNESSING A DEVELOPMENT.



GIVE ME SOMETHING IN SMALL WORDS THAT I CAN RELAY TO THE PRESIDENT, DR. RICHARDS.

HOW DOES "HYPER-KINETIC PROXIMAL NEUROPATHY WITH QUASI-RANDOM TAUTOMERIZATION" SOUND?



LIKE IT'LL FRY OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S BRAIN. TRY ENGLISH...AND START FROM THE BEGINNING.

TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF.



THE PATIENT IS SUFFERING FROM A VERY SIGNIFICANT ABDOMINAL WOUND, COMPLICATED BY THE TYPE OF BULLET.

THE HANDGUN WAS OLD...HADN'T BEEN FIRED IN YEARS. UNFORTUNATELY FOR ROBBIE, THAT MEANS THE SLUG FRAGMENTED SOON AFTER ENTRY FROM ALMOST POINT-BLANK RANGE.

SOME OF THE SMALLER PIECES ARE NOW PRESSING AGAINST HIS SPINAL CORD.

NOW THIS IS THE PATH THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE TO GET BACK OUT AGAIN. ONE OR TWO FRAGMENTS ACTUALLY LODGED INSIDE AN INVERTEBRAL DISC IN HIS LUMBAR REGION.

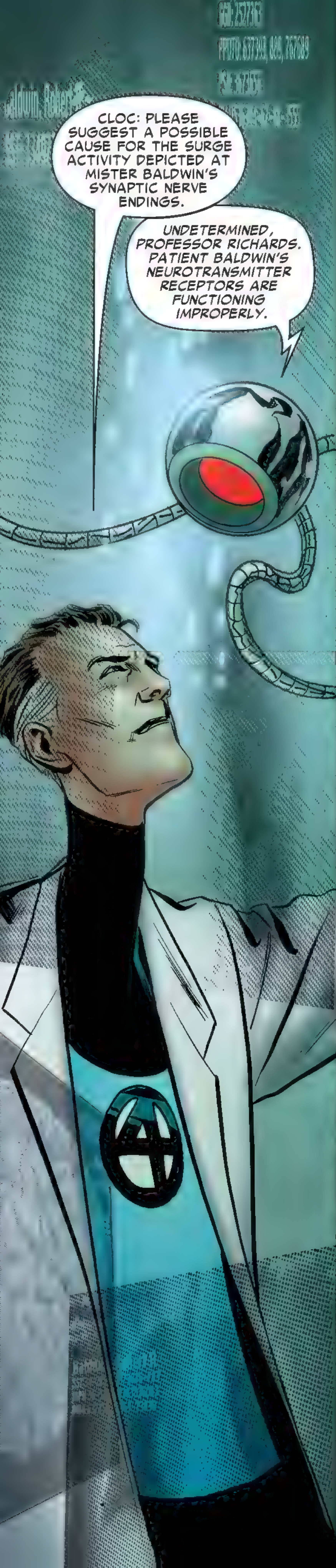
THERE'S NO PROCEDURE THAT GUARANTEES SUCCESS, DIRECTOR HILL. WE COULD CRIPPLE OR EVEN KILL HIM WITH A MICROSCOPIC MISTAKE.

WHAT ABOUT THESE BLOBS... WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF ALL THAT?

THEY APPEAR TO BE ONE OF TWO THINGS:

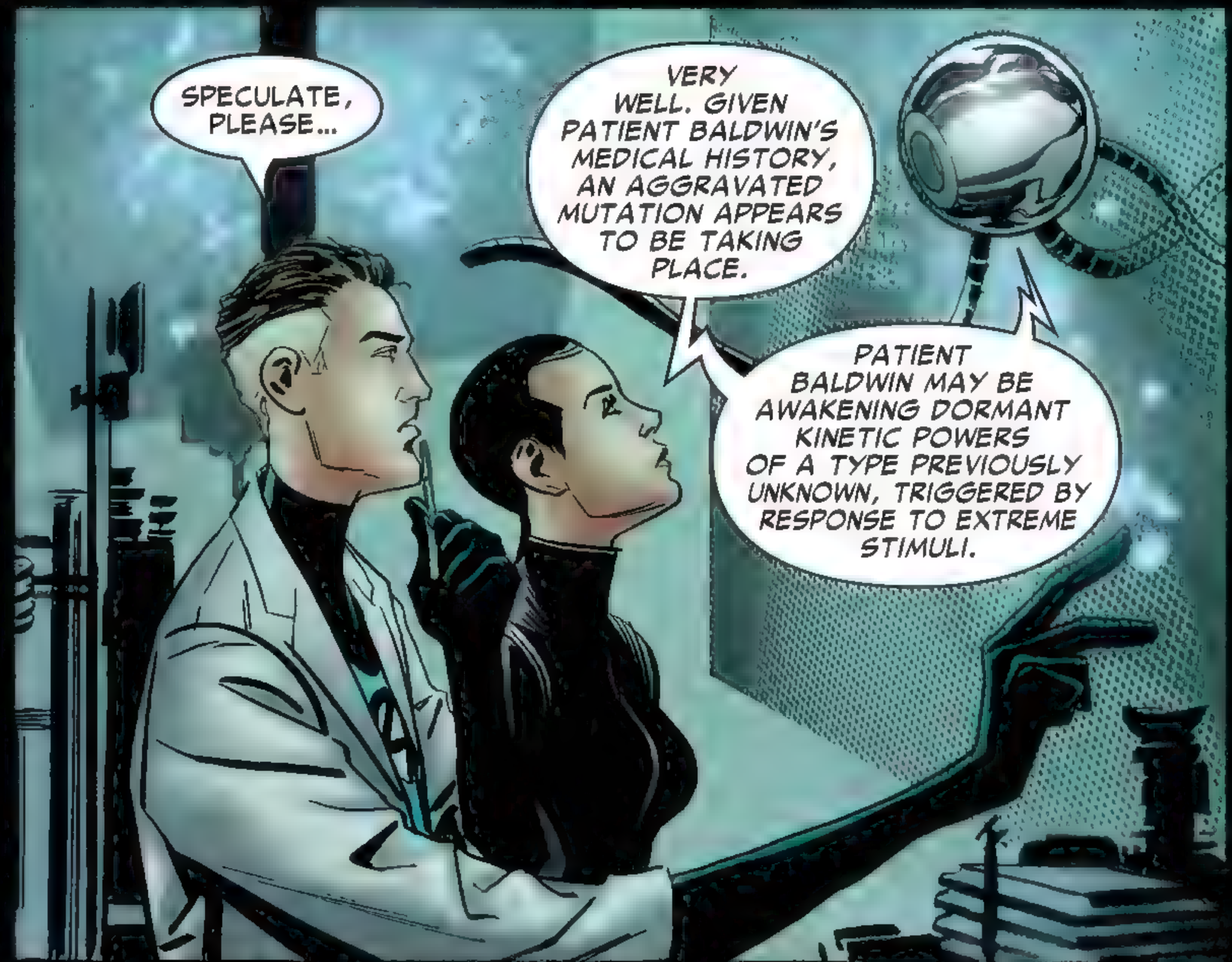
ONE--THEY'RE SOME KIND OF BIOELECTRICAL ACTIVITY SURROUNDING HIS NERVE ENDINGS. THAT ACTIVITY IS LITERALLY SIPHONING BIOELECTRICAL ENERGY FROM HIS SURROUNDINGS AND FEEDING IT INTO HIS NERVOUS SYSTEM.

TWO-- WE HAVE NO IDEA.



CLOC: PLEASE SUGGEST A POSSIBLE CAUSE FOR THE SURGE ACTIVITY DEPICTED AT MISTER BALDWIN'S SYNAPTIC NERVE ENDINGS.

UNDETERMINED, PROFESSOR RICHARDS. PATIENT BALDWIN'S NEUROTRANSMITTER RECEPTORS ARE FUNCTIONING IMPROPERLY.



SPECULATE, PLEASE...

VERY WELL. GIVEN PATIENT BALDWIN'S MEDICAL HISTORY, AN AGGRAVATED MUTATION APPEARS TO BE TAKING PLACE.

PATIENT BALDWIN MAY BE AWAKENING DORMANT KINETIC POWERS OF A TYPE PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN, TRIGGERED BY RESPONSE TO EXTREME STIMULI.



YOU SEE, DIRECTOR HILL? SOMETHING WONDERFUL IS HAPPENING TO ROBBIE BALDWIN.

I NEED MORE TIME TO STUDY THE PHENOMENON. DON'T MAKE ME BEG.



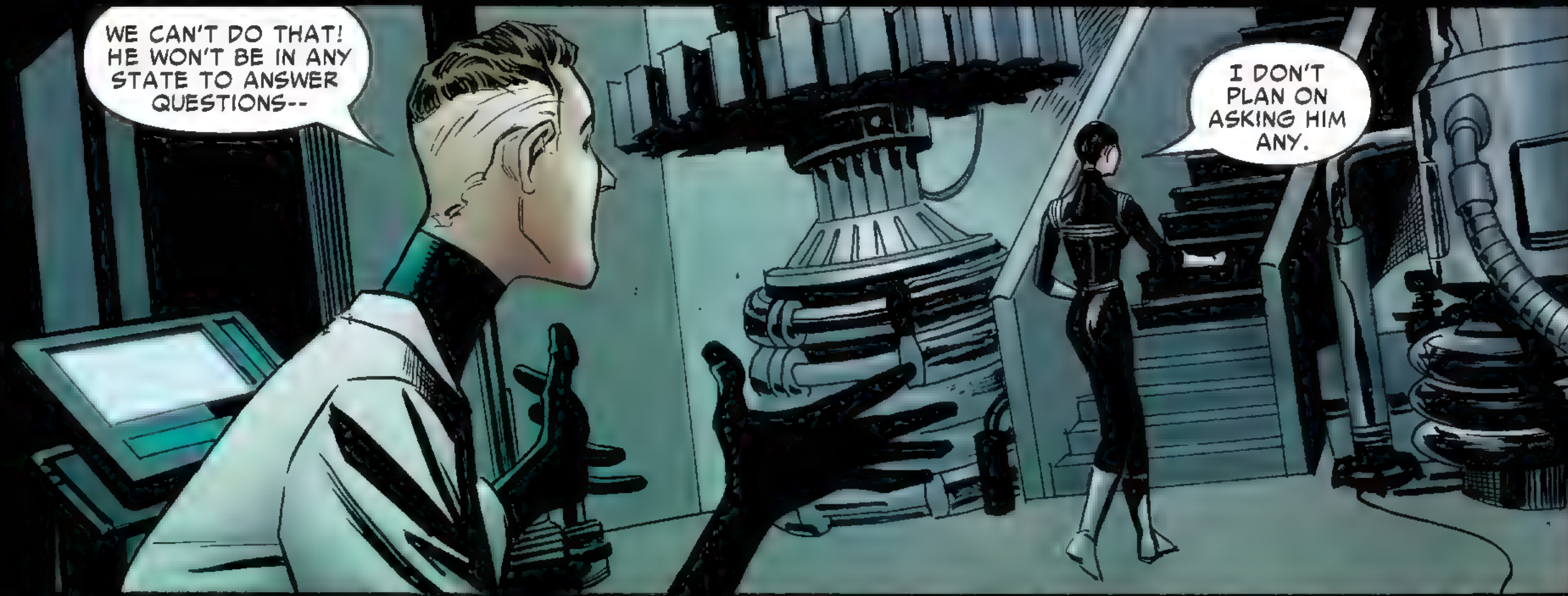
WHY IS HE STILL UNCONSCIOUS? IS HE OUT OF THE WOODS?

WELL, YES... BUT WE CAN'T REVIVE HIM YET. HE'D BE IN TREMENDOUS PAIN.



YOU EXPLAIN THAT REASONING TO THE FAMILIES OF THE DEAD AT STAMFORD, PROFESSOR.

GIVE HIM SOME MORPHINE AND WAKE HIM UP.



WE CAN'T DO THAT!
HE WON'T BE IN ANY
STATE TO ANSWER
QUESTIONS--

I DON'T
PLAN ON
ASKING HIM
ANY.



TOMORROW AT OH-EIGHT-HUNDRED HOURS,
I'M GOING TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT THAT
AN UNREGISTERED COMBATANT WAS RESCUED
FROM A LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION BY FOUR
HEROIC POLICE OFFICERS, AT RISK TO
THEIR OWN SAFETY.

I'M GOING
TO TELL HIM THE
PRISONER IS FINE, AND
WILL BE OFFERED NO
SPECIAL TREATMENT,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH
ADMINISTRATION
PROTOCOLS.



HE'S GOING TO TURN THAT INTO
POLITICS, WHEREBY THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE WILL BE REMINDED THAT
WE ARE JUST AND FAIR, EVEN TO
OUR UNREGISTERED COMBATANT
ENEMIES.

THEY'LL PROBABLY
TALK ABOUT IT ON THE
HILL FOR ANOTHER COUPLE
OF YEARS UNTIL THE
PRESIDENT SAYS GOODBYE
AFTER THE NEXT
ELECTION.

THEN, WE'LL
START ALL OVER
AGAIN.



AND IN THE MEANTIME,
MISTER BALDWIN
WILL BE BACK IN
PRISON.

WHICH IS
EXACTLY WHERE
HE HAS CHOSEN
TO BE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

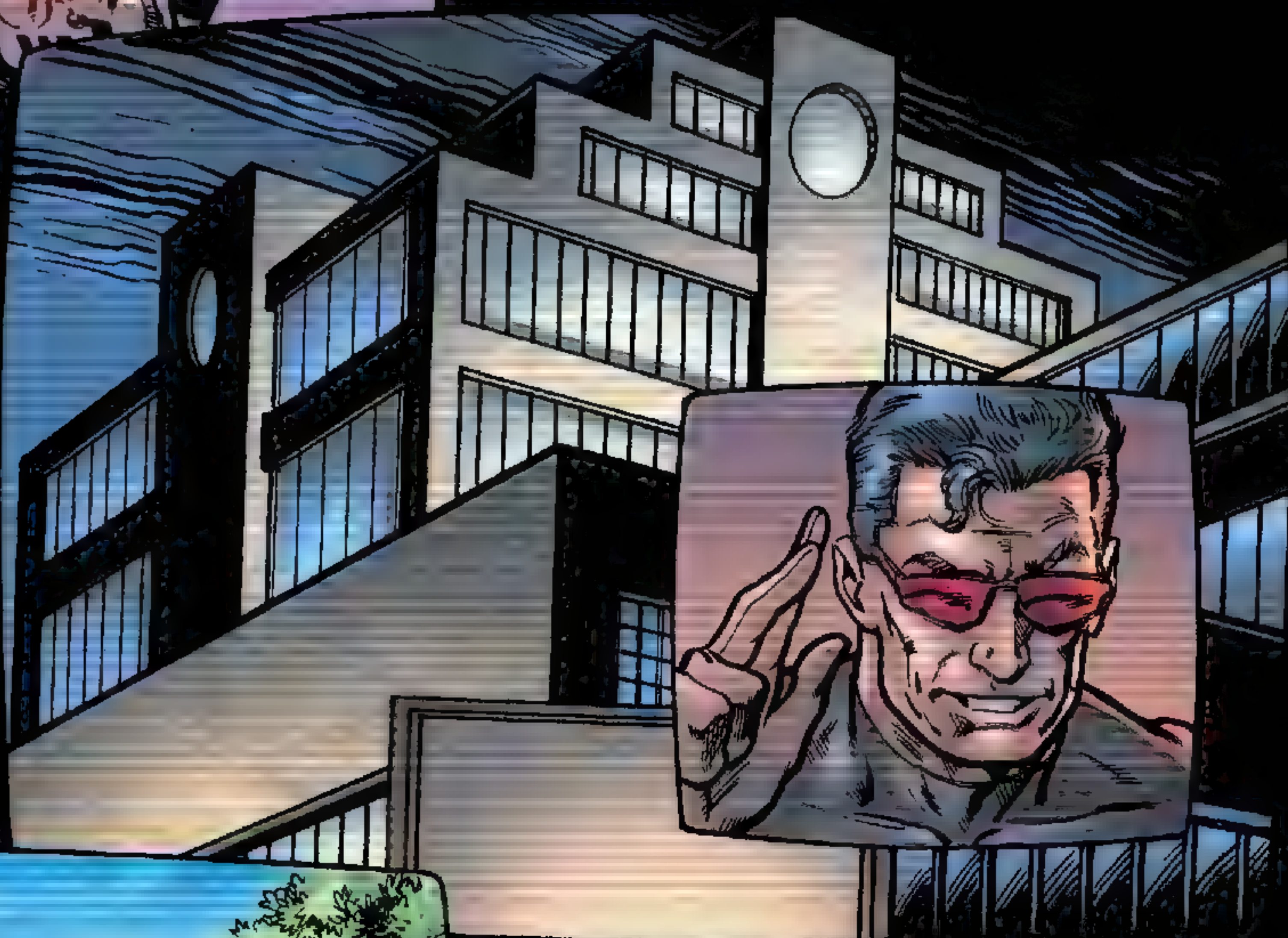


"... AS THE CONFLICT CONTINUES UNABATED, WE'VE SEEN AN EXPONENTIAL RISE IN THE NUMBER OF SKIRMISHES BETWEEN REGISTERED AND UNREGISTERED COMBATANTS:

"THREE CIVILIANS KILLED TODAY AFTER THE FORMER COSTUMED HEROINE KNOWN AS CYBERMANCER WAS APPREHENDED DURING AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT A BANK HEIST..."

"...THE ACTOR, SIMON WILLIAMS--ALSO KNOWN AS WONDER MAN--REMAINS IN STABLE CONDITION AFTER A DOCKLAND WAREHOUSE BLAZE LATE ON THURSDAY SENT SHOWERS OF DEBRIS AS FAR AWAY AS QUEENS AND HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY.

POLICE CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE REPORTED SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE FIRE...

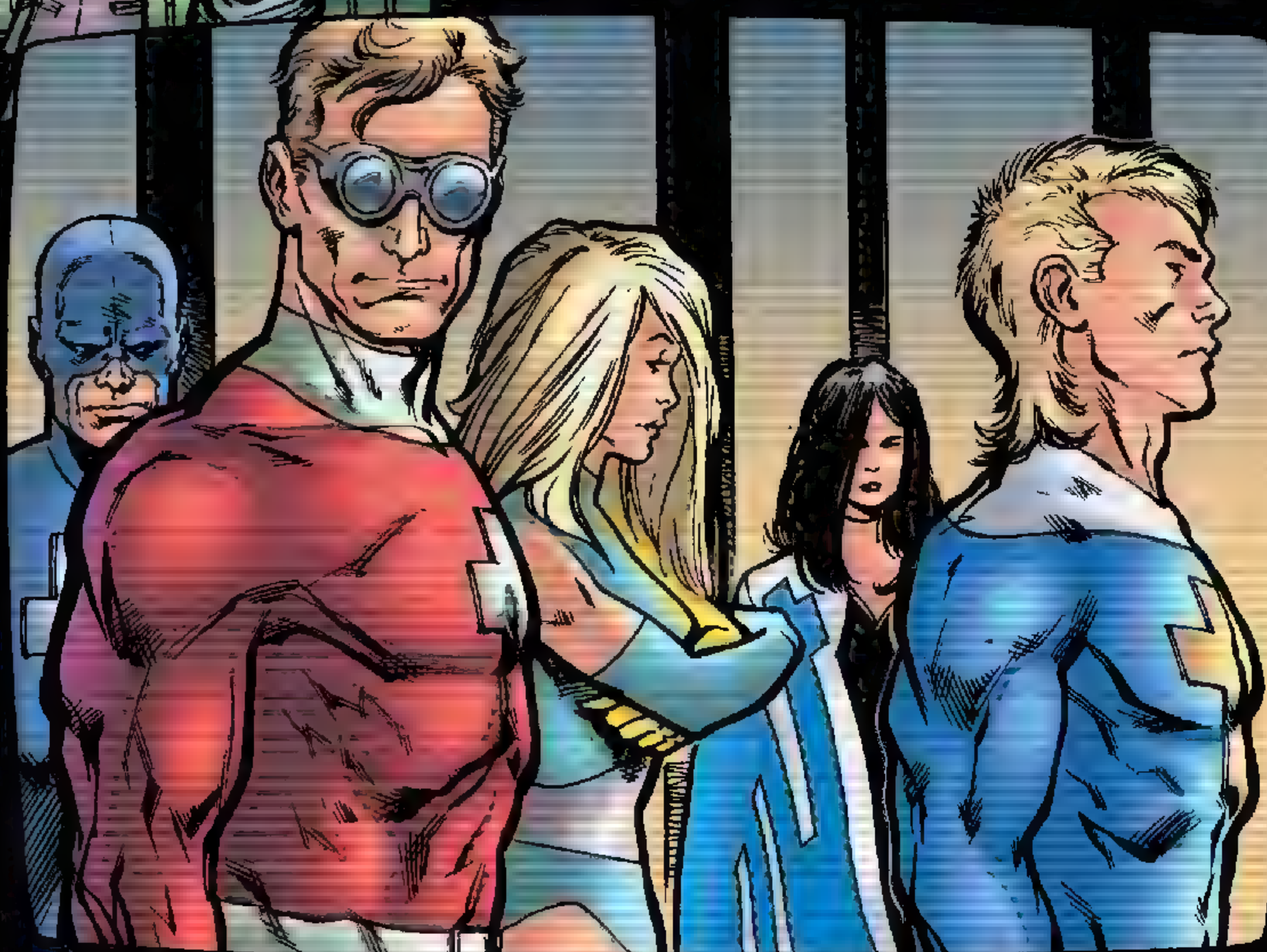


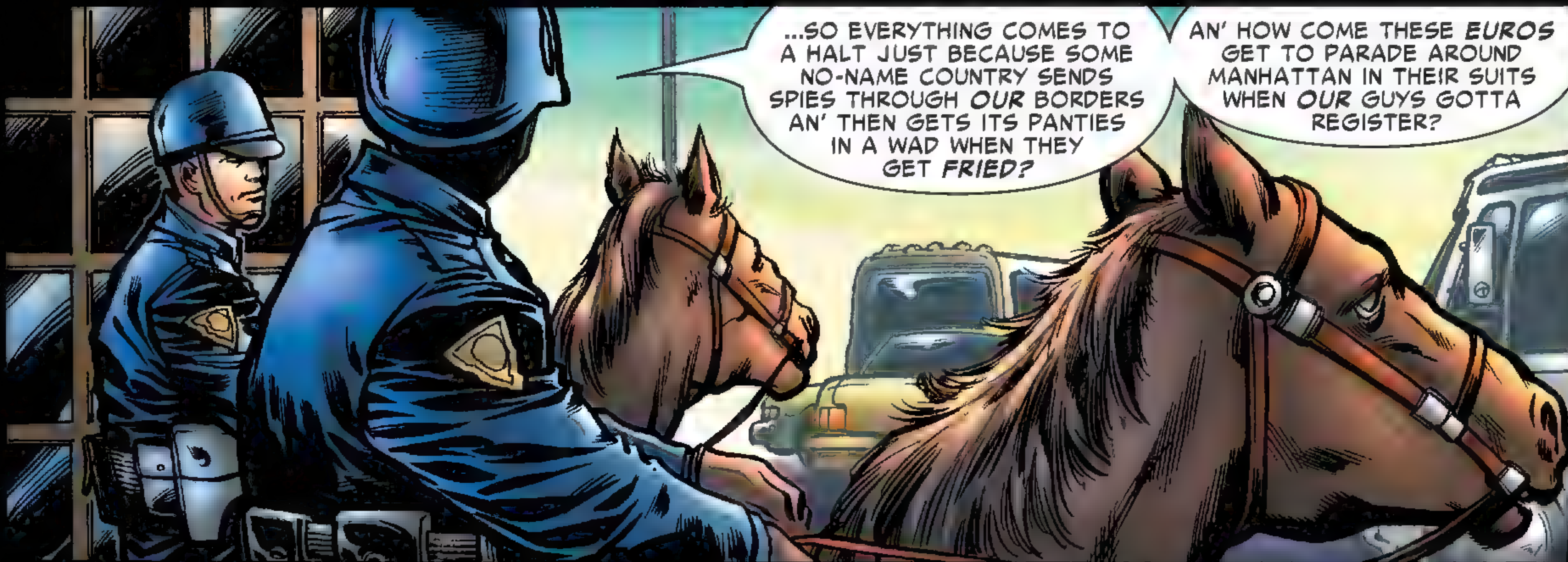
"...WHILE ELSEWHERE, A SEGMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES WATCHDOG GROUPS DESCENDED UPON CAPITOL HILL TO VOICE THEIR CONCERNS OVER APPLICATION OF THE REGISTRATION ACT.

"A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION PENSIONS FOR HEROES DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE DISTURBINGLY SMALL TURNOUT, PREFERING TO CONCENTRATE ON THE BROADER ISSUE OF HEROES' RIGHTS..."

"...AND A DELEGATION OF VISITING FOREIGN DIGNITARIES FROM THE SUB-AQUATIC NATION OF ATLANTIS IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT THE LOWER EAST SIDE WHARF WITHIN MINUTES.

"IN A DEAL BROKERED BY THE EUROPEAN AGENCY, S.H.E., THE ATLANTEANS ARE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WHAT IS INCREASINGLY BEING DESCRIBED AS AN ALL-OUT CIVIL WAR..."



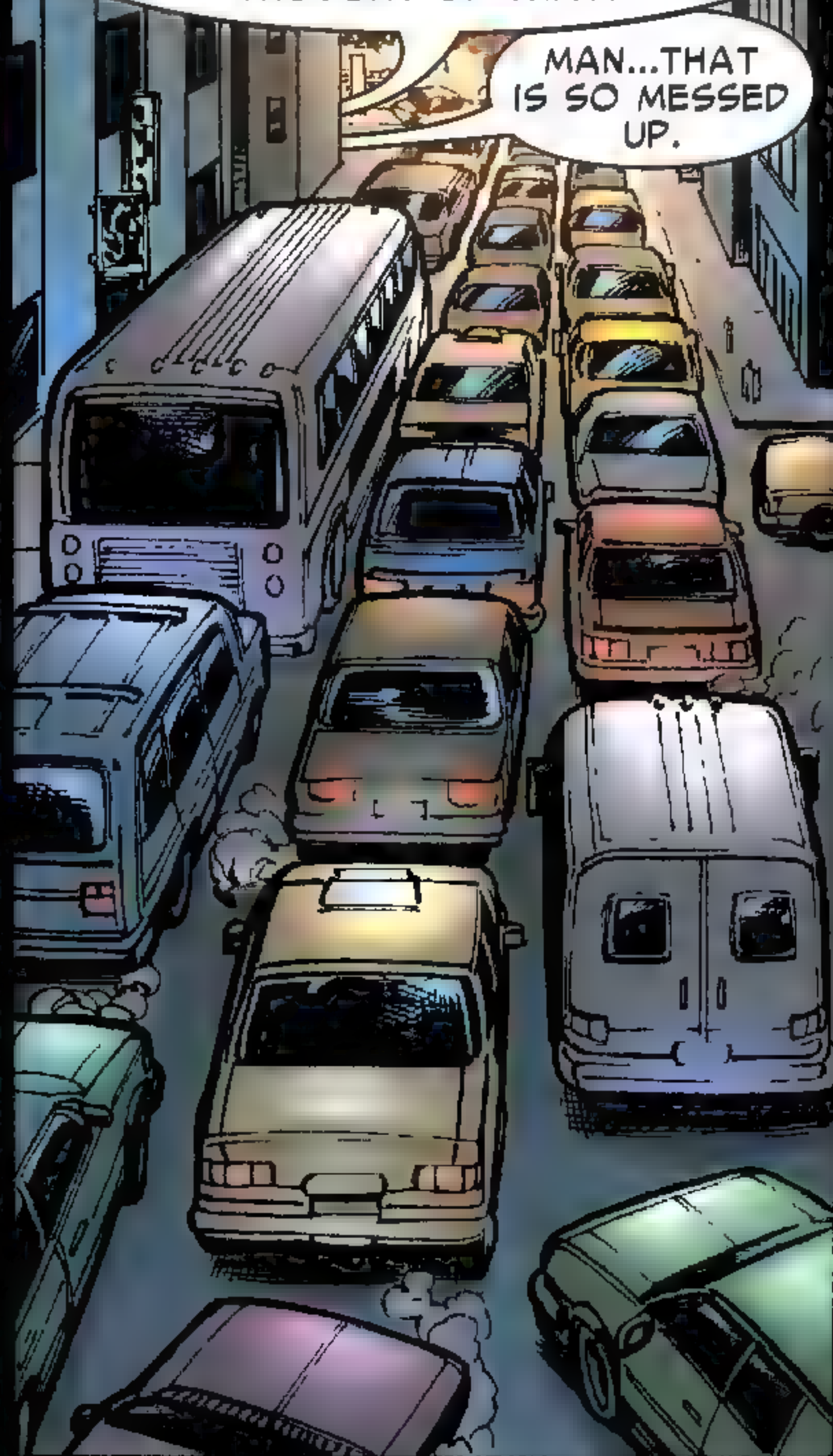


...SO EVERYTHING COMES TO A HALT JUST BECAUSE SOME NO-NAME COUNTRY SENDS SPIES THROUGH OUR BORDERS AN' THEN GETS ITS PANTIES IN A WAD WHEN THEY GET FRIED?

AN' HOW COME THESE EUROS GET TO PARADE AROUND MANHATTAN IN THEIR SUITS WHEN OUR GUYS GOTTA REGISTER?

I HEAR YOU THERE, KENNY. SUPPOSEDLY, THE POLITICIANS ARE STILL TRYING TO WORK OUT HOW THE ACT APPLIES TO FOREIGNERS. I GUESS NO ONE THOUGHT OF THAT.

MAN...THAT IS SO MESSED UP.

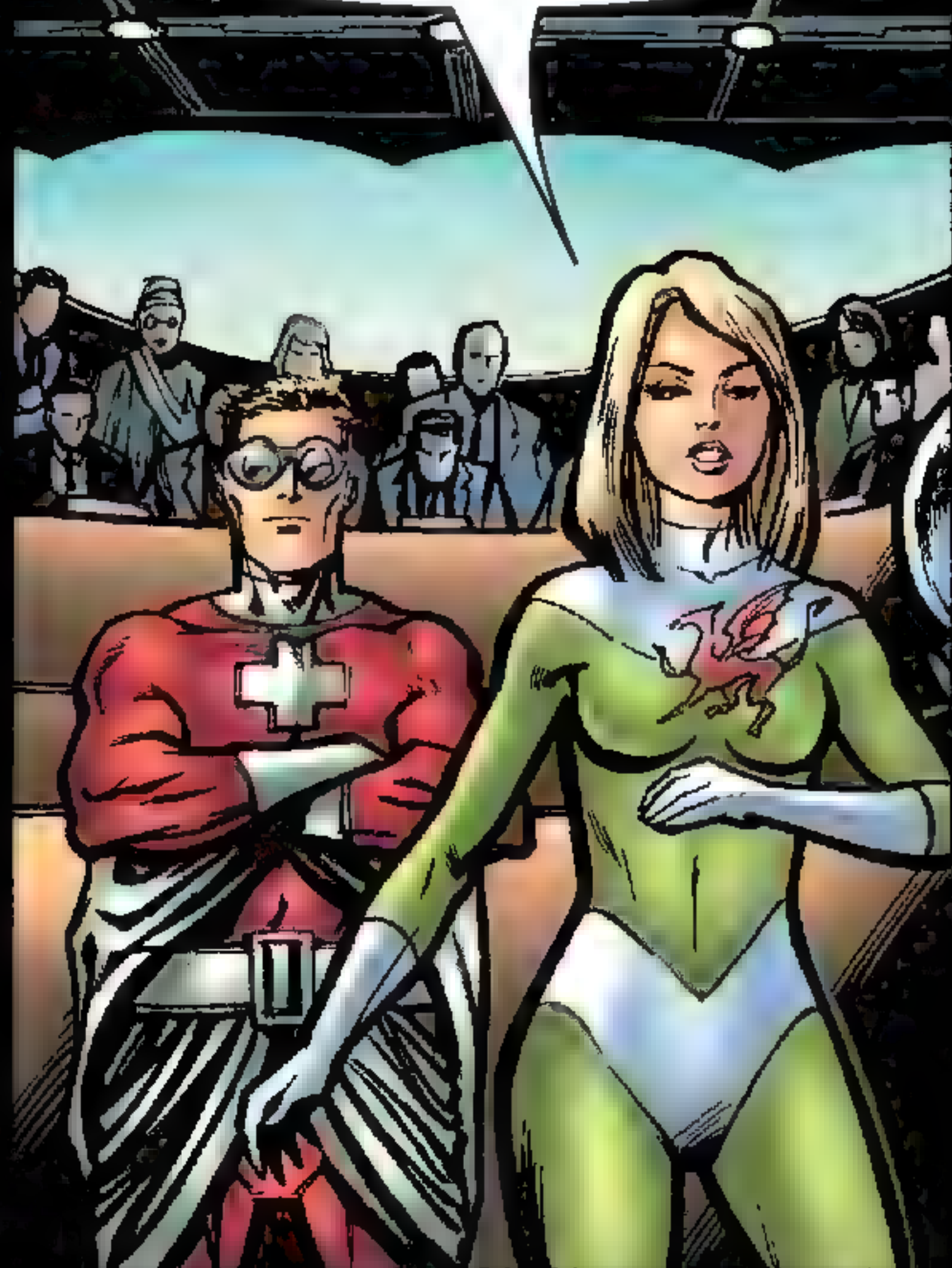


"THIS IS AMERICA. IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE OUR COUNTRY."



...AND ON BEHALF OF THE SUPER HEROES OF EUROPE I'D LIKE TO THANK THE GOVERNOR, HIS STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA ALL FOR COMING AS WITNESSES TO THIS HISTORIC OCCASION.

SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER MY PREDECESSOR AS RED DRAGON, GARETH THOMAS, WHO PASSED AWAY LAST YEAR AS A RESULT OF INJURIES SUSTAINED IN A BATTLE AGAINST THE VOID.



I HOPE TO SERVICE MY COUNTRY AND THE WORLD BY FOLLOWING THE MANY POSITIVE EXAMPLES GARETH SET OVER HIS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER.

TO MY LEFT, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE, FROM BELGIUM, MARCEL DEFLANDRE, WHO WILL FUNCTION AS TRANSLATOR...



SHEEPER CELL PART SIX

PAUL JENKINS WRITER | LEE WEEKS BREAKDOWNS | LEE WEEKS & NELSON FINISHES | SOTOCOLOR'S J. BROWN COLORS | VC'S RANDY GENTILE LETTERS | MOLLY LAZER & AUBREY SITTERSON ASSISTANT EDITORS | TOM BREVOORT EDITOR | JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF | DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

THE ATLANTIAN DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IMMINENTLY. THEY HAVE REQUESTED A PUBLIC FORUM TO AIR THEIR GRIEVANCES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ATLANTIAN CUSTOM.

I HARDLY NEED TO REMIND YOU OF THE DELICATE NATURE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, SO PLEASE KEEP YOUR QUESTIONS TO A MINIMUM IF YOU WANT TO GET HOME BY NIGHTFALL.

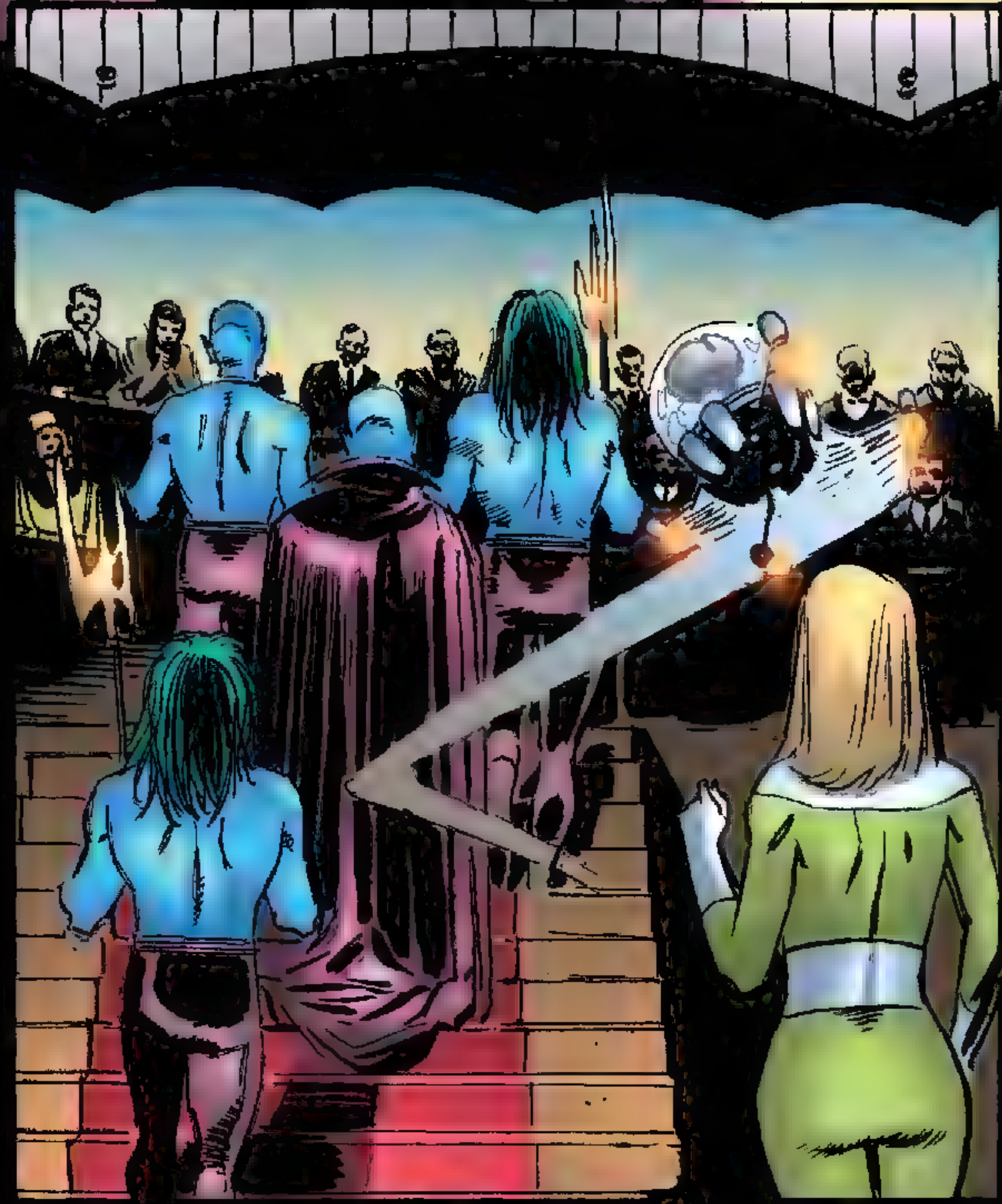
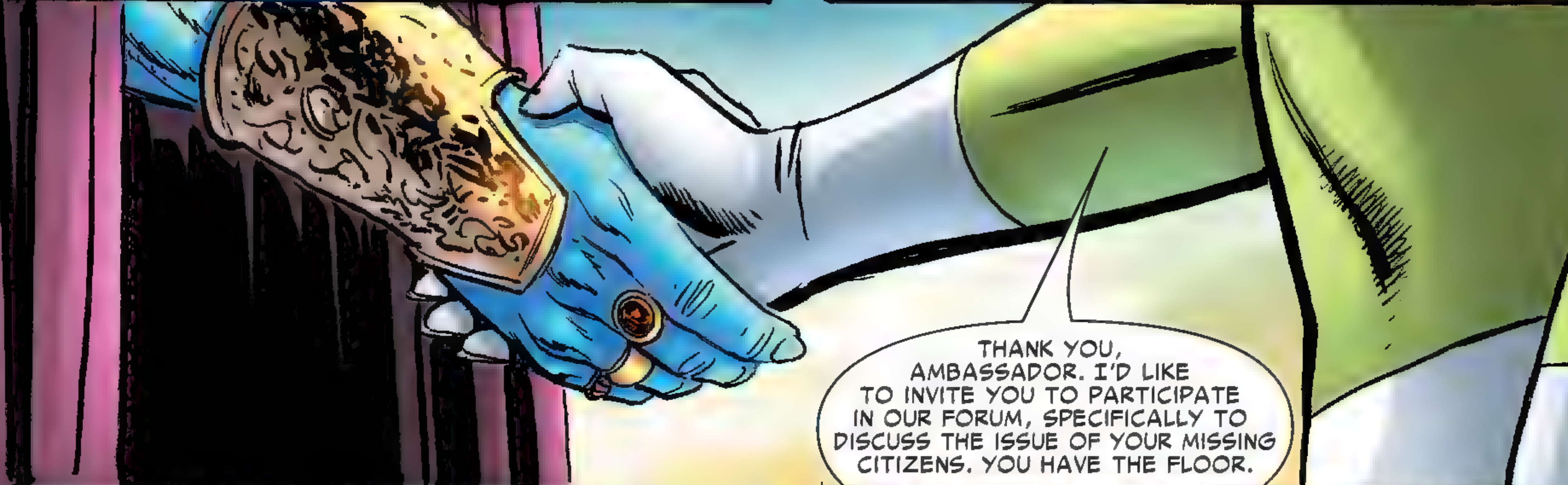
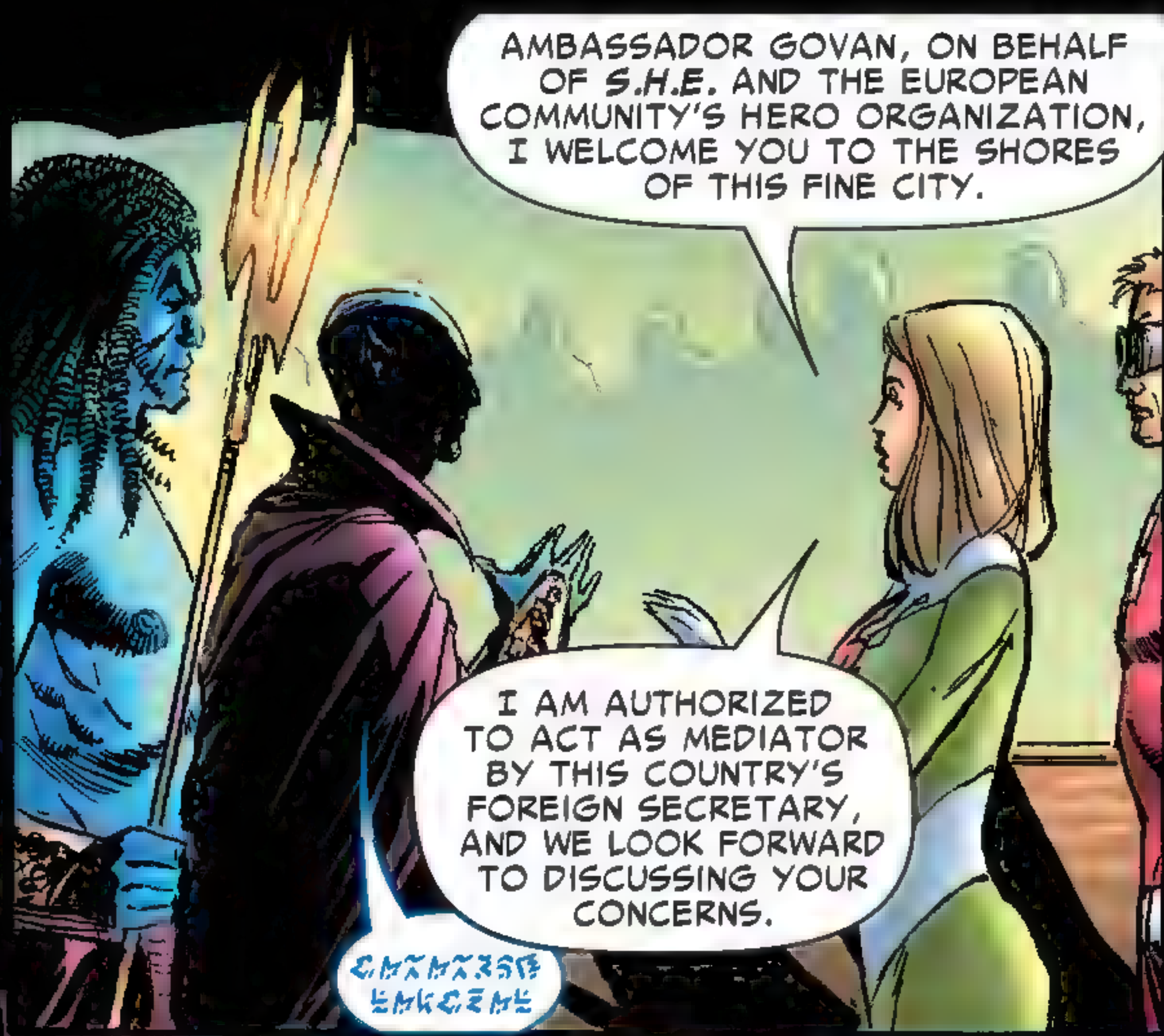
UH...RED DRAGON, MIKE WILLIAMS FROM THE POST: CAN YOU COMMENT ON WHETHER THIS HISTORIC VISIT TO OUR SHORES IS NO MORE THAN A GLORIFIED PRISONER EXCHANGE AFTER RUMORS OF AN INCIDENT INVOLVING ATLANTIAN AGENTS--

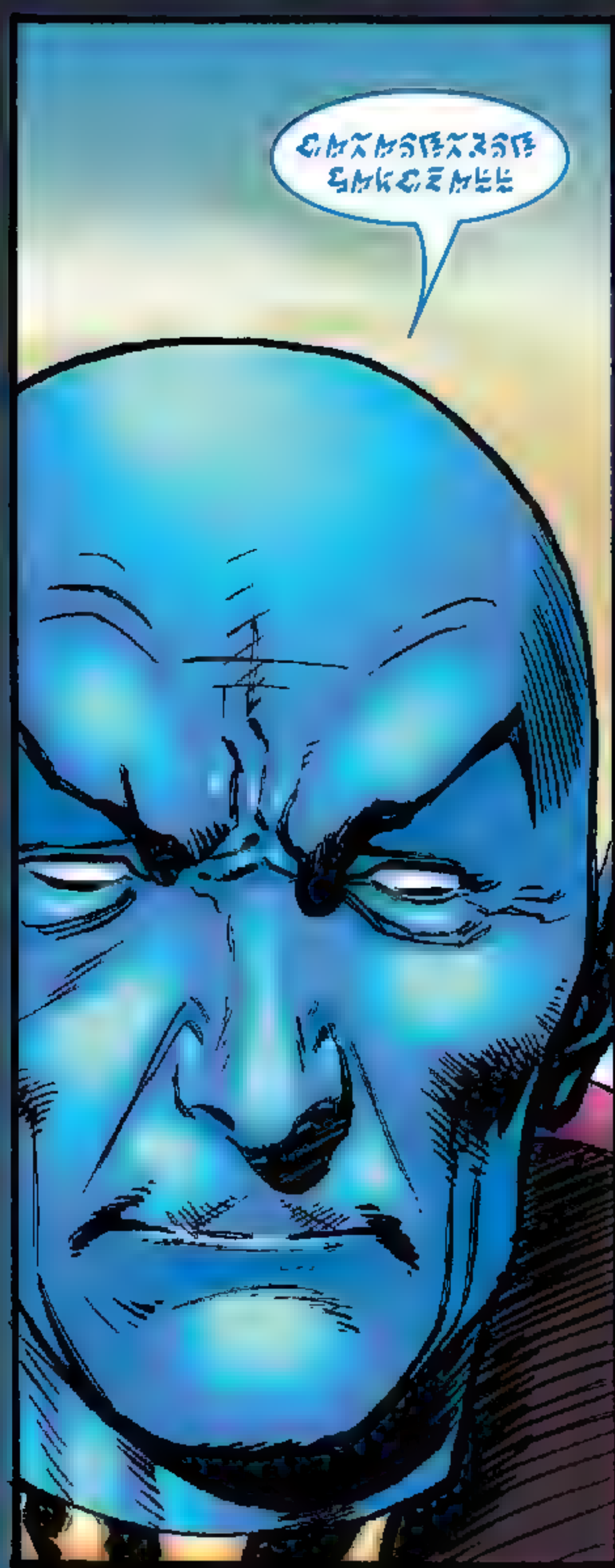
THEY CONSIDERED THEMSELVES MISSIONARIES, MIKE. THIS WAS NO MORE THAN A FACT-FINDING MISSION. THERE WAS NOTHING SINISTER ABOUT THESE PEOPLE BEING HERE. THEY'RE SIMPLY ASKING FOR THE RETURN OF THEIR CITIZENS.

THE ATLANTIAN STATE RELIGION IS BASED UPON INTERACTION WITH A LIVING ENVIRONMENT, MUCH LIKE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CULTURE--

HEY...OVER THERE!









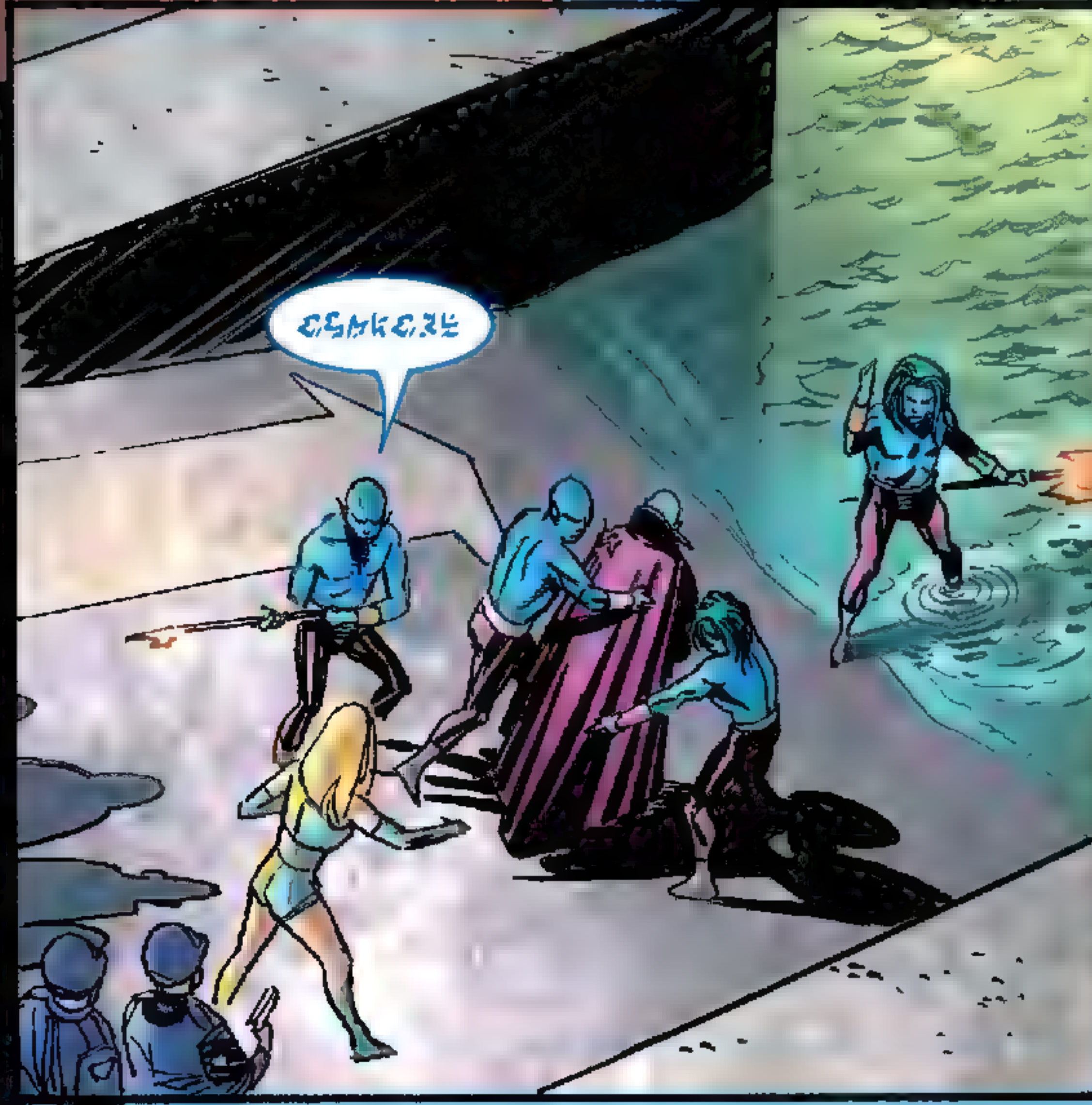
OH MY GOD...THAT'S OSBORN! THAT'S NORMAN OSBORN!

GET THE ATLANTEANS UNDER COVER! NOW!



AND THE ANSWER IS: "NOT FAST ENOUGH!"

HEHEHEHE!!

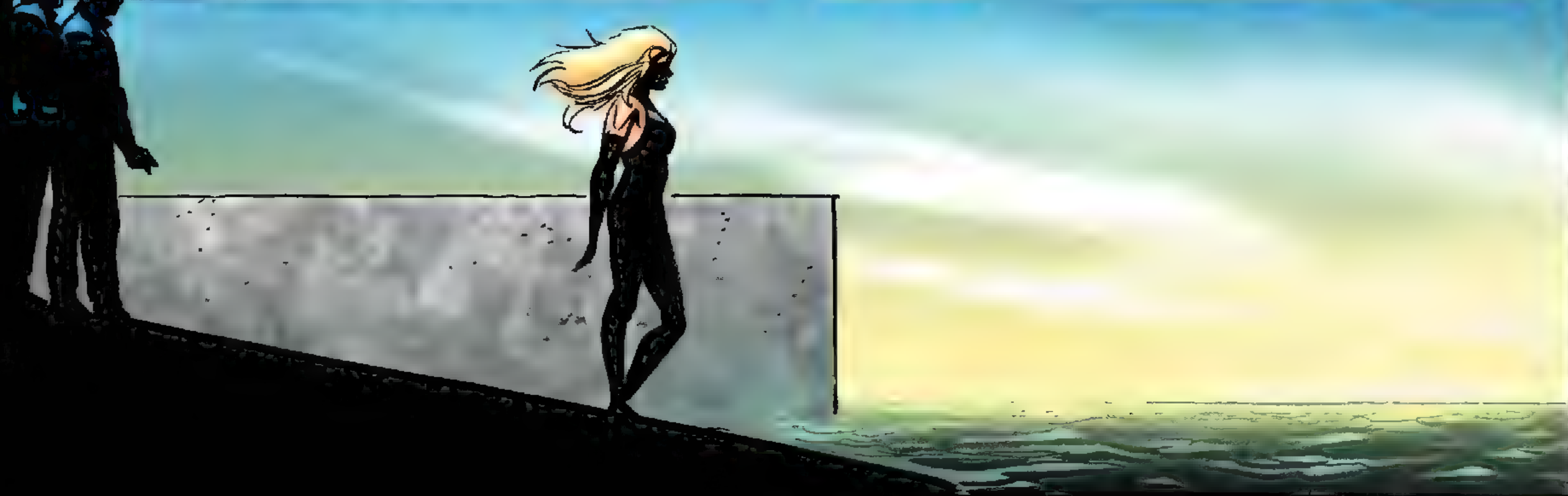


CSMKCZE



AMBASSADOR GOVAN... YOU MUST BELIEVE US... THIS WASN'T OUR DOING...

...IT WAS A MISTAKE...





TO BE CONTINUED...

The battle of Edgehill, which began on October 16th, 1642, was the first--and some say the bloodiest--of the English Civil War. The Royalist and Parliamentarian armies met in a massive skirmish on an open field near Kineton, Warwickshire. Most combatants were armed only with pitchforks or cudgels. By day's end, huge swathes of troops lay dead and badly wounded. The bodies were looted for clothes and money and left on the field.

So bloody was the carnage that stories began to surface of the battle being replayed again and again in the skies above Kineton. King Charles the First became intrigued by these tales: weeks after the fight he sent some of his senior officers to investigate and interrogate witnesses. To his alarm, his men returned, ashen-faced, to confirm that they themselves had seen the grisly battle still raging in the sky. In fact, they had even witnessed the deaths of former friends and colleagues as the battle raged in the clouds.

According to local legend, the Battle of Edgehill continues to replay in the sky each year on the anniversary of the conflict.

THE FIGHTING MAN SHALL FROM THE SUN
TAKE WARMTH, AND LIFE FROM THE GLOWING EARTH;

SPEED WITH THE LIGHT-FOOT WINDS TO RUN,
AND WITH THE TREES TO NEWER BIRTH;
AND FIND, WHEN FIGHTING SHALL BE DONE,
GREAT REST, AND FULLNESS AFTER DEARTH.



PAUL
JENKINS
WRITER

FRAZER
IRVING
ARTIST

VC'S RANDY
GENTILE
LETTERS

MOLLY LAZER &
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DAN
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PUBLISHER

THE BLACKBIRD SINGS TO HIM, "BROTHER, BROTHER,
IF THIS BE THE LAST SONG YOU SHALL SING,
SING WELL, FOR YOU MAY NOT SING ANOTHER;
BROTHER, SING."



AND WHEN THE BURNING MOMENT BREAKS,
AND ALL THINGS ELSE ARE OUT OF MIND,
AND ONLY JOY-OF-BATTLE TAKES HIM BY THE THROAT,
AND MAKES HIM BLIND,





THROUGH JOY AND BLINDNESS HE SHALL KNOW,
NOT CARING MUCH TO KNOW, THAT STILL
NOR LEAD NOR STEEL SHALL REACH HIM, SO
THAT IT BE NOT THE DESTINED WILL.





THE THUNDERING LINE
OF BATTLE STANDS,



AND IN THE AIR
DEATH MOANS
AND SINGS:



BUT DAY SHALL CLASP HIM
WITH STRONG HANDS, AND
NIGHT SHALL FOLD HIM
IN SOFT WINGS.
--JULIAN GRENFELL

